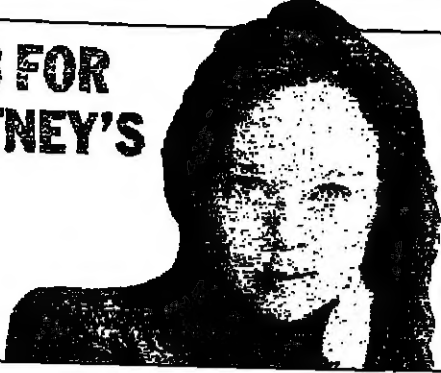


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Minister and more than 120 candidates disclose their opposition to single currency

## Tories rush into ranks of Eurosceptics

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

MORE THAN 120 former Conservative MPs had last night joined the headlong rush to declare their antipathy to a single European currency after being let off the leash by John Major last week. They include a junior minister who put his job on the line by openly breaching the Government's wait-and-see approach, while a number of other ministers are more covertly letting their constituents know their opposition to monetary union.

The education minister James Paine — whose Cambridgeshire South East constituency adjoins John Major's — was the first minister to nail his colours firmly to the mast, writing in his election address that a single currency would be "a huge step leading inexorably towards political union... I do not believe Britain or Europe is ready for that."

The statement means that Mr Major will come under pressure to sack him today, having made clear last week that ministers who broke the line would be dismissed.

A survey by *The Times* has found that nine other ministers have constituency staff who tell inquirers of their hostility to monetary union — even though they stick to the government line in their official literature. They included Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and William Hague, the Welsh Secretary.

The former Tory MPs expressing their opposition in campaign literature included Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of

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the backbench 1922 Committee — two former advisers to Mr Clarke — David Ruffley, candidate for Bury St Edmunds, and David Cameron, candidate for Stafford — and most of those with party posts at Conservative Central Office.

The survey shows that much of the Conservative party in the country is standing on a different platform from the Government. But senior ministers — while conceding that the appearance of disunity would be damaging — were privately emphasising the advantages of a large number of Conservative candidates coming out against the single currency.

One said: "It is playing well on the doorsteps. We did not want it to happen like this, but now it is time to make the best of it." The greatest fear among party strategists is of a backlash from the pro-European wing which could throw the campaign into turmoil.

Edwina Currie was quick to remonstrate yesterday, saying: "It's a bit odd if policy is being made by candidates and not by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet."

And the opposition parties had already gone on the attack

after Dame Angela Rumbold, a Tory vice-chairman in charge of candidates, declared her outright opposition to a single currency. Labour said the Tories were "plunging into civil war" and the Liberal Democrats said the party was breaking up.

Tory Blair said Tory ministers would be like "ferrets in a sack" if the Government were re-elected, fighting for jobs but with different views on issues like Europe. "No one knows where the Government stands. No one even knows where Government ministers stand."

But Mr Major emphasised that Dame Angela was in a different position from members of the Government. "Like every other backbencher she is entitled to express her views on an issue which may or may not come to fruition in unknown circumstances at an unknown time."

The number of Tory candidates coming out against the single currency is expected to soar over the next few days. Paul Sykes, the Yorkshire businessman helping to finance candidates who are against monetary union, has so far backed 167 and expects the figure to go up to 200.

The Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley went close to dismissing the prospects for a single currency. Asked whether he could imagine any circumstances in which he would vote in favour of it, he said: "I have such a fertile imagination I can imagine almost anything."



**WILLIAM HAGUE**  
Campaign leaflet: "Referendum before decision"  
Campaign HQ: "Not in favour of single currency"



**MICHAEL FORSYTH**  
Leaflet: No reference to single currency  
HQ: "Privately opposed to it"



**MICHAEL ANCRAM**  
Leaflet: "No diminishing of sovereignty"  
HQ: "Does not want a single currency to happen"



**SIR PAUL BERESFORD**  
Leaflet: Not released  
HQ: "No circumstances in near future where he would vote for it"



**SIMON BURNS**  
Leaflet: No comment  
HQ: "In a vote I think you would find he would not support single currency"



**ERIC FORTH**  
Leaflet: "Opposes a federal Europe"  
HQ: "Does not support single currency"



**ROGER KNAPMAN**  
Leaflet: "No more erosion of sovereignty"  
HQ: "Absolutely opposed"



**JOHN WATTS**  
Leaflet: None yet  
Said: "Totally opposed to fudged single currency"



**GWILYM JONES**  
Leaflet: "No to federal Europe"  
HQ: "Draw your own conclusions"

## Policy changes when local HQs answer the questions

By Andrew Pierce, Mark Henderson, Dominic Kennedy and Valerie Elliott

A SURVEY carried out by *The Times* has found that ministers are unofficially breaching the Government's wait and see policy in their constituency campaigning.

Inquiries by *Times* reporters about the personal views of ministers found that they officially set out the Government's carefully crafted line in their election literature.

But staff working for them in their constituencies campaign freely to volunteer the information that their candidates are strongly hostile to a single currency.

Reporters, posing as constituents, asked the association officers of 40 ministers whether their election addresses reflected the wait and see line.

In the case of nine of them, including two Cabinet Ministers — William Hague and Michael Forsyth — the reporters were told of the ministers' strong antipathy towards economic and monetary union.

Many more officials refused to discuss the European issue and insisted that inquiries should be made with the candidate direct. But the responses revealed that opposition to the single currency is widespread in the ranks of the Government itself and Conservative Party headquarters.

The leading rebels are: William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, has written: "If ever a single currency were to be proposed there should be a referendum of the whole country before a final decision was taken." His office in Northampton, told a reporter: "It's for your personal use? He is not in favour of a single currency."

Michael Forsyth, Scottish

Secretary, makes no reference to the single currency in his election address. "Privately opposed to it," according to his staff.

Michael Ancram, Northern Ireland Minister, says in his election address that he "will not support anything which diminishes our sovereignty". Privately, his campaign headquarters, said he "does not want" a single currency to happen. Asked if that meant he opposed the abolition of the pound, the reply was: "You may think that. I could not possibly comment."

Sir Paul Beresford, Environment Minister, declined to reveal the contents of his election address which will be released later this week.

Tim Hall, his agent, speaking on the record to *The Times*, said: "Sir Paul's line is that he does not see any circumstances in the near future where we will join it or where he would vote for it."

Simon Burns, Junior Health Minister, who is defending Chelmsford West, makes no comment about the single currency in his election address. A spokeswoman for his campaign headquarters said: "As a Government Minister he is following the line. He is not one of those Eurosceptics. In a vote I think you would find he would not support a single currency. He is a Eurosceptic."

Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister of State, says he "opposes a federal Europe... [and] any further transfer of powers from Britain to Europe". Unofficial response: "Ask him

Continued on page 2, col 6

### Pound reaches a post-ERM high

The pound surged on the foreign exchange yesterday, rising to its highest level against the German mark since its abrupt departure from the exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992.

Shares also rose sharply, with the FTSE 100 index of leading shares closing 35.1 points higher at 4,286.8

### Water companies fear extended tax

Labour is believed to be considering extending its planned windfall tax across the entire water industry despite 20 local companies saying that they have had none of the windfall benefits of privatisation. The companies serve about a quarter of England and Wales

## Hundreds killed in pilgrim camp fires

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

UP TO 300 people were killed and 800 injured yesterday when fires raged through two pilgrim camps on the way to Mecca.

Witnesses described mass panic as flames licked through the closely pitched white tents, driven by fierce winds.

Huge palls of smoke blacked out the sunlight over a camp in the plains of Mena as the emergency services struggled to cope. Many of the dead — who were mostly Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis — were said to have been crushed in the rush to escape the blaze. Some local reports put the death toll at more than 300, others said that 181 were known to have died.

Suzanne Kassem said: "It

started off with just small puffs of black smoke. It started spreading in size until the day looked like night. Gas tanks were exploding everywhere like bombs. People were running around. It was mass hysteria. Everyone was running around like cattle."

The fire broke out as some of the two million people on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca were beginning to move en masse towards Mt Arafat. Some witnesses said that it was caused by a gas canisters used for cooking; others blaming faulty wiring in an air conditioning circuit.

As news of the main fire spread, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that a second had broken out in the Iranian encampments on Mt Arafat 12 miles southwest of Mecca.

Before the blaze broke out,

Saudi television showed pictures of many of the pilgrims in their traditional dress — two simple white sheets for men and long white or black robes plus headscarves for women — carrying umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun as they made the journey to Mena chanting: "I have answered your call, God. There is no one God but you."

The tragedy was a major



embarrassment for the Saudi authorities, who are the proud guardians of the world's two holiest Islamic sites at Mecca and Medina and have spent \$18.6 billion expanding facilities in Mecca. Shortly before the blaze, Saudi officials claimed that they had been doing their best to ensure a safe Haj for the pilgrims from some 100 countries.

Every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it is obliged to perform the pilgrimage once. But the Haj has been dogged by tragedy. The worst was seven years ago when 1,426 pilgrims died in an overcrowded tunnel at Mena, probably because of a breakdown of the ventilation system. And in 1994, 270 pilgrims, most of them Indonesian, were killed in a stampede in Mecca when the crowd surged forward uncontrollably towards a cavern for the ritual of "stoning the devil".

Fire, hostage-taking, political disturbances and bombings have also taken a huge toll. In 1987 402 people, most of them Iranian pilgrims, were killed and 649 wounded in Mecca when Saudi security forces clashed with Iranians staging an illegal anti-US and anti-Israel demonstration.

The most dramatic incident was in 1979 when several hundred armed men hostile to the conservative Saudi government barricaded themselves inside Mecca's Grand Mosque for two weeks, taking pilgrims hostage. Some 153 people were killed and 560 injured in the fighting.

A year later 301 passengers were killed when a Pakistani jet caught fire after a passenger lit a kerosene stove in an aisle to brew tea.

## Carey rules out Church blessing for gay 'marriages'

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has made one of his strongest statements on homosexuality, ruling out the possibility of the Church of England sanctioning same-sex relationships among the clergy.

Dr Carey, in the final documentary in the *Archbishop's* series, to be broadcast on ITV this Sunday, makes clear that the Church will never bless gay "marriages". He says the Church recognises

marriage and celibacy, and nothing in between.

"In the 1980s, the issue of homosexuality was just beginning to emerge as a problem for all the churches. With hindsight we can criticise people of that period," he says. "Now we're in a different ball game, and we are saying very clearly to people in the Church that practising homosexuality is not to be condoned in the priesthood."

He says homosexuals can be ordained, but should live a celibate lifestyle. Challenged by Peter Williams, the series

director, on whether this is not like President Clinton saying he smoked marijuana but did not inhale. Dr Carey insists: "Nothing of the sort. Homosexuals are people loved by God, have gifts to offer, but the discipline of the Church has not changed."

"If people think that we're living in limbo now and the Church can't make up its mind, they've got it absolutely wrong. The discipline of the Church is that we recognise two lifestyles. One is marriage and the other is celibacy, and there can't be anything in

between, and we don't recognise same-sex marriages."

A spokeswoman said Dr Carey was referring specifically to the priesthood, and was not available for comment about the laity. He has previously made strong statements criticising homophobia. On *Desert Island Discs* in 1995 he said he had no intention of overturning the teaching of the Bible, but added: "With that must go listening to men and women today whose experience may be different from ours. The discussion continues."



**Exclusive**

**Floppy Found Dead!**

For the full story turn to page 5.

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## Nurse 'used insulin to kill partner for his cash'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A NURSE murdered her common-law husband by injecting him with insulin so she could inherit his property and marry her lover, a court was told yesterday.

Marie Whiston, 52, twice tried to murder 60-year-old Eric Lloyd by injecting him with a massive overdose, and on the third occasion she succeeded and "almost got away with it", Birmingham Crown Court was told.

Mrs Whiston, who denies murder, had joked with colleagues about the case of Beverly Allitt, the nurse who killed four children, and had told her first husband she could "do away with him" quite easily using insulin and that nobody would be any the wiser, it was alleged.

Anthony Barker, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Lloyd was a lonely man of whom Mrs Whiston had taken advantage when they began a relationship in 1990. The couple had bought a house together in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, but two years later Mrs Whiston started a relationship with another man, Rod Beatty.

Mr Lloyd, who was unaware of the affair, had made a will signing the property over to her. "She was a cold-hearted woman who treated him poorly and was unfaithful and deceitful to him. She had another man and she wanted to inherit what money he [Mr Lloyd] had and go on her way," Mr Barker said.

The jury of eight men and four women was told that Mrs Whiston worked at Heartlands Hospital, moving to East Birmingham Hospital at

the time of the alleged killing. On the morning of June 11, 1994, she had called a GP to the house and told him she had found her husband dead when she returned from her nightshift. However, the prosecution alleged that she had spent the night with her lover.

Mr Beatty saw her later that day and she did not appear upset, Mr Barker said. "She said she would have to act upset in front of people who knew her and Eric."

After a first post-mortem examination a urine sample showed that the insulin levels in his blood were five times the normal level, so they "stuck out like a sore thumb".

Mrs Whiston had tried to suggest Mr Lloyd had committed suicide, despite there being no bottles of pills near the body, it was said.

Mr Lloyd had already been admitted to hospital twice in August and September 1991 with low blood-sugar levels. "Someone, on two occasions in 1991, had injected this man with insulin so as to cause him to collapse," Mr Barker said. "She made two failed attempts to kill him by injecting him with insulin and on the third attempt she gave him a cocktail of drugs to perhaps make him drowsy and indeed she almost got away with it."

Robert Whiston, who married her in 1973 but separated from her in 1988, told the court that his wife had threatened him with a similar fate. "She said it is quite easy. Insulin can be absorbed into the blood stream and no-one will know it's been there."

The trial continues.



Stella McCartney: "It's mad after being out of college a year and a half"

## French decide a new McCartney is in fashion

By GRACE BRADBERRY  
STYLE EDITOR

SIR Paul McCartney's daughter Stella was appointed chief designer at the French fashion house Chloe yesterday, succeeding Karl Lagerfeld.

The announcement took the fashion world by surprise. McCartney, 25, who graduated from Central St Martin's College of Fashion in September 1995, has designed just three commercial collections. She said: "It's mad after being out of college for a year and a half. I wasn't even aware they were looking for a new designer."

McCartney is the third Briton to be appointed to a big French fashion house in less than a year. Last October it was announced that John Galiano, 36, would move to Christian Dior and that Alexander McQueen, 28, would head Givenchy.

McCartney was unaware that Mounir Moufarrige, Chloe's president, had seen two of her collections. "He came to the showroom, but I didn't know where he was from."

M Moufarrige said: "Talent was the thing. Is there an age for that? You either have talent or you don't, you either have creativity or you don't. I think she will surprise us all very positively."

McCartney's willingness to give up her own label collection — Galliano and McQueen retain theirs — also appears to have swung the balance. He said: "We wanted a designer who would be exclusive, full-time, and develop the product."

Lagerfeld, now 58, was at a creative peak when he designed for Chloe in the 1970s. He left in 1983, but returned in 1992. In March he announced that he was stepping down to concentrate on his collections for Chanel and his



Fashion show from her last college year

own label. McCartney went to work for Christian Lacroix in Paris at the age of 15. She graduated from St Martin's amid a blaze of publicity, with Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss — both friends — modelling in her end-of-year show.

After a stint with a Savile Row tailor she launched her own collection, based on vintage and antique clothing. Although the name has undoubtedly helped, fashion insiders are insistent that she has real talent. Lisa Armstrong, the fashion features director of Vogue, said: "Chloe has been a feminine, bohemian, hippy deluxe label. Stella does very pretty clothes with a Notting Hill bohemian feel. There's a whole youth quake going on."

Sir Paul said: "It is a big job, but I am sure she's more than equal to the task. All of her family are very proud of her."

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## Son made 'ghost' calls to get money out of mother

By ROBIN YOUNG

AN AVARICIOUS son pretended to be the ghost of his dead father to get his hands on the family fortune, a court was told yesterday. John McKenna, 41, made eerie wailing noises down the telephone to his stepmother in an attempt to terrify her.

The widow, Freda McKenna, 62, then had a call impersonating the voice of her late husband intoning: "It's Louis here. When are you going to carry out my wishes?"

Magistrates heard that there was a bitter family dispute after Louis McKenna died 18 months ago. His widow was left the "lion's share" of his £60,000 estate.

David Martin, for the prosecution, said: "Mr McKenna left a third of his estate to his wife. Two ninths were left to their daughter, with the four children from his first marriage, each getting a ninth. As a result a dispute arose between Mrs McKenna and her four stepchildren."

Mr Martin said Mrs McKenna received a number of telephone calls at her home in Buckley, Cwyd. He said: "In one of the calls she could hear a ghostly wailing sound in the background. She recognised it as the voice of her stepson."

Mrs McKenna told the court: "I was very, very upset. My husband had only died about four months earlier and I was still in shock."

Magistrates at Mold were told that the voice claiming to be the late Mr McKenna belonged to a "mystery man" whom the son refused to name to police. The calls to Mrs McKenna were traced to her stepson's mobile phone.

McKenna, of Buckley, was found guilty of making nuisance calls, given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £75 costs.

## Suspected rapist slips Old Bailey security net

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN accused of rape escaped from the Old Bailey yesterday, diving through a locked glass window after evading armed police patrols, closed-circuit television cameras and other sophisticated technology.

The 20-year-old man slipped from the cell where he was waiting to be called for trial. He had been taken to the court building yesterday morning on a bench warrant after having failed to appear in February for a pre-trial hearing.

It is believed he had been in the cell area when he found himself near a door leading to one of the older ground-floor courts.

When challenged by a probation officer, he is understood to have run through an office and hurled himself through a locked window into Newgate Street, where he made his getaway.

Only one other accused has escaped from the premier court in the English criminal justice system in recent memory.

Security is currently at a very high level because of the trial of eight men accused of plotting an IRA attack on London's electricity supply, but it appeared yesterday that someone forgot to close the door of the escapee's cell after a legal visit.

## Mormon bishop 'assaulted six women believers'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

SIX women worshippers were sexually assaulted over 21 years by a Mormon bishop whom they were urged to regard as a father figure, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Gibson, 72, would regularly molest members of his Liverpool chapel and occasionally attempt to stuff money into their underwear, it was claimed. A 20-year-old woman was invited into his bedroom on the pretext of looking at his "Sound of Music" bed, a reference to its use as a prop in an amateur musical production, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

When detectives confronted Gibson about the allegations, he said that had been merely expressing his love and concern for the women in his



Gibson: said he was expressing his love

flock. Gibson, of Roby, Liverpool, Merseyside, denies 25 charges of indecent assault spanning 21 years to December 1994. Some of the charges are specimen charges relating to systematic abuse.

Six of the alleged victims, aged 17 to 42, had been baptised into the Mormon faith. A seventh was aged just eight when he started to indecently assault her, it was claimed.

Mark Brown, prosecuting, told the court that Gibson, a married man, joined the Utah-based Church of the Latter Day Saints in about 1957, and attended the Mill Bank Chapel, Stoneycroft, Liverpool.

He would put his arm around female parishioners, brazenly squeezing their breasts, often in the presence of others. Mr Brown said that Gibson touched the breasts of one of the women and the young girl when she was 12, and tucked a £5 note into their bras afterwards.

He was said to have assaulted two women during interviews at his chapel office. With one, he moved his hands up her thighs, kissed her on the mouth, and pressed his body against her. Mr Brown said: "She did not know what to do. She decided to ignore it and keep away from Mr Gibson. She didn't think if she complained that anyone would listen." The trial continues.

## School up before the beak after pet duck nearly dies

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

POLLY the primary school pet was almost a dead duck when the cleaner who was looking after her went on holiday. Magistrates in Bracknell, Berkshire, were told yesterday how the bird was found without food or clean water in the middle of the summer break.

Rita Cassese, who has since resigned from The Pines Infant School in Bracknell, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a domestic duck. She was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 costs. The school governors were in school governors last night emergency session after the presiding magistrate said the school should keep

no more pets unless it could look after them properly. Liz Wheeler, RSPCA inspector called to The Pines last August, said: "We were told that the duck was part of the children's curriculum. The only education they would have got from her is how to neglect a duck."

Polly has since been found a good home after being nursed back to health by RSPCA officials. But 13 days into last summer's holiday she was deserted and "significantly underweight".

Philip Day, prosecuting for the RSPCA, showed magistrates a video of the area near the back of the school building where the cross-bred bird

had its pen. The film showed numerous rotting eggs and a dead wood pigeon covered in maggots and floating in a pond.

Mr Day said that 54-year-old Cassese, of Dryden, Bracknell, had agreed to feed the duck as usual over the summer holiday, although she was not paid to do so and it was not part of her job specification. "The prosecution case is that she did not and that she just ignored it."

Michael Davies, for the defence, said that the duck had probably been underfed for considerably longer than the two weeks of summer holiday before the RSPCA raid.

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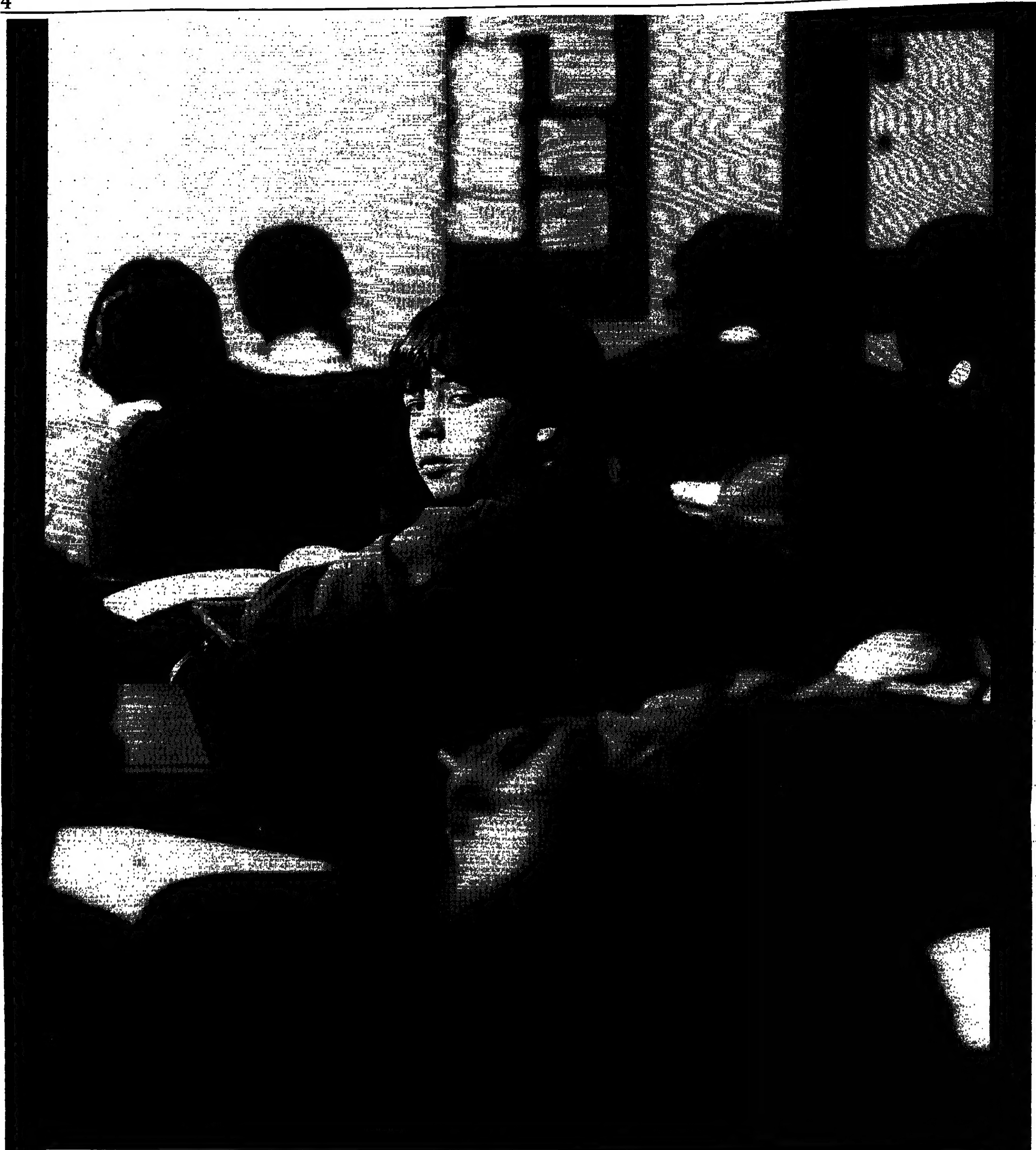
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THE ENERGY TO BREAK THROUGH





# GREAT BRITAIN CURRENTLY RANKS 42ND IN THE WORLD EDUCATION LEAGUE. DISCUSS.

This is the statistic John Major didn't want you to see. The World Education League judges countries on how their education system meets the needs of a competitive economy. It shows that Britain's children are not being educated to the standards of other countries. Currently we lag behind Taiwan, The Philippines and Columbia. Government underfunding has led to teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and thousands of children sharing books. No wonder more than 48,000 children failed to pass a single GCSE exam in 1996. Britain deserves better. If these statistics make you cross, you know where to put that cross on polling day.

**UNISON**  
the public service union

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## THE TIMES WEDNESDAY Shy Cantor his eleva Renaissan

By Russell Lewis

ERIC CANTOR, a shy, unassuming man, is the only person to have been elected to the office of Mayor of Manchester in 1997. He is a 45-year-old, middle-aged, middle-class man, a former teacher, who has spent most of his life in the north of England. He is a man of few words, a man who is not used to the spotlight. He is a man who is not used to the spotlight. He is a man who is not used to the spotlight.



## Greek heroes did decline to conjugate with the barbarians

By Peter Jones

RACE and sex are hot topics in classical studies. Yesterday the Classics Association conference at the University of Hull discussed kissing a barbarian. Did ancient Greeks marry with foreigners? Were they like their modern descendants, this seems a question of ancient patriotism and loyalty. The foundation myth of Greece is the story of a city founded by a man who was a foreigner. The story of the city of Athens is the story of a city founded by a man who was a foreigner. The story of the city of Athens is the story of a city founded by a man who was a foreigner.



## Small pay p for er

What happens when your daughter brings her new boyfriend home for the weekend? Does he go in the spare bedroom, or do they sleep together? Find out in Weekend

Saturday in THE TIMES

CORRECTION



# Shy Cantona misses his elevation to Renaissance Man

By Russell Jenkins

ERIC CANTONA refused yesterday to be photographed under a giant canvas depicting him as a Christ-like figure. The enigmatic Manchester United footballer was behaving to type as he dodged photographers at the official unveiling of the oil portrait at the Manchester City Art Gallery.

The painting owes much to two works of the Italian Renaissance. Cantona and an array of dozing team-mates are taken from Piero della Francesca's *Resurrection of Christ*, of 1499, showing Christ emerging from the tomb. The background is taken from a painting by Andrea Mantegna showing Julius Caesar's triumphant return to Rome after his foreign victories. In place of Caesar sits Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, on an elaborate chariot, holding a palm as a traditional symbol of victory. Behind him is John Curtis, the youth team coach. As Roman soldiers beneath Cantona are Phil Neville, David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Gary Neville.

Whether Cantona was embarrassed to be portrayed as a modern-day Christ, complete with the banner of the Resurrection, or was simply too shy, he was not letting on. He certainly likes the painting, called *The Art of the Game*, by the Manchester artist Michael Browne, 34. He agreed to pose for photographs after meeting the artist at a city centre restaurant; he collaborated on the project and has bought it at a price believed to be between £50,000 to £100,000.

The painting will hang in the City Art Gallery for several weeks before heading for an



Browne: influenced by Renaissance paintings

unknown destination. The artist said it was not destined to be hung at the house Cantona rents from the Chelsea striker Mark Hughes at Prestbury, Cheshire.

Mr Ferguson brought tens of millions of pounds worth of footballing talent with him to the unveiling, but he still had to apologise for the absent Cantona. "Eric did not want to be photographed with it," he said. "He thinks it is a private arrangement and he wants to adhere to that. So you'll have to make do with myself and the other players. I am delighted to be here with my young players, who are slightly embarrassed to see their faces painted in such magnitude."

The artist, who once painted a detail of the Sistine Chapel on the ceiling of a Manchester restaurant, said he was not presenting Cantona as a Christ figure. It was more a comment on the modern nature of heroes.

Browne said the painting was his idea, but he had found Cantona enthusiastic. He took photographs of the player, rather than asking him to

pose. "He said he likes this kind of art. The painting is a way of reflecting heroes of today in the grand way it was done in the past."

Mr Ferguson, looking slightly bemused to have fallen among art critics, suggested that the Resurrection was Cantona's triumphant battle over his dark side after kicking a spectator in the terraces. "I don't feel uncomfortable with it. The guy has dedicated himself for a whole year to do this and I think it is a great job of work. The theme is that supporters can look on footballers as their idols. ... It is a modern image of football."

Gary Neville, shown on the far right of the group at Cantona's feet, said: "If there is any criticism, people are looking too much into it. It is just a painting."

The Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev Christopher Mayfield, said he did not find the painting offensive. "This is a humorous painting which should be taken at face value."



A Christ-like Eric Cantona, surrounded by his manager and team-mates

# Art of flattery has a noble history

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SINCE the time of the Pharaohs, men and women who could never be described as oil paintings have commissioned portraits that flatter their vanity.

Few, however, want anything approaching the deified image of Eric Cantona. Most request only a good likeness and an informal pose. "But they want posterity to remember them at their best," said Daphne Todd, president of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. "Unless you flatter them, they are quite worried by the result. We all see ourselves as 20 years younger than we are."

While Cantona's depiction on canvas is unusual, it is not unique. The actor Stephen Fry had his portrait painted by Maggi Hambling in the image of his hero, Oscar Wilde. Ms Todd, noting how the tradition extended back over centuries, said: "Reynolds did it all the time. It was the vogue for members of the aristocracy to be portrayed as shepherds and goddesses. He had a pattern book. People could choose the scene they wished."

scientist who was in her late forties. "She had been a bunny girl and saw herself as a *femme fatale*. She felt that I'd made her look like her mother. I knew her as an academic, but she really wanted to be alluring and desirable."

Elizabeth I would have understood. She insisted that her age never showed in her portraits. Accordingly, her pockmarked face was unblemished on canvas. Oliver Cromwell was different: he ordered that his portrait should not flatter him. The artist was told to include "all these ... pimples, warts and everything as you see me; otherwise I never will pay a farthing for it."

People pay an average of £10,000 a portrait, but prices range from £3,000 to more than £30,000. The most outrageous portraits have generally been unsolicited and found little favour with their sitters. The Queen declined Michael Burke's portrait of her and the Queen Mother astride a motorbike, and Edwina Currie was unimpressed by his portrait of her in stockings and suspenders, holding a whip.

She recalled painting a

# Greek heroes did not decline to conjugate with the barbarians

By Philip Howard

RACE and sex are hot modern topics in classical studies. Yesterday the Classical Association conference at the Royal Holloway College, London, discussed kissing the barbarian.

Did ancient Greeks intermarry with foreigners? If they were like their modern descendants, this seems certain. The ancient patriotic and xenophobic foundation myths are against it, but modern scholarship thinks otherwise.

Greeks colonised southern Italy and Sicily from the 8th century BC, forced west by poverty and overcrowding on their barren homeland. From their graves, archaeologists are now beginning to work out what they were like.

Tamar Hodos of Keble College, Oxford, has been examining the fibulae of brooches used to fasten women's robes in front. And the fibulae — buried with their owners — come from mainland Italy, not Greece. The colonists imported many other crafts from home, but not these brooches. There was an old common market in metalworking be-

tween Italy and Sicily. So the presence of these Italian brooches suggests that Greek men were sleeping with the enemy. In their new world, the colonists found wives and the brooches came with them.

Another old foundation myth has the colonists killing the natives and taking their women. So runs the story of Rome and the Sabine women. But did the founders of Miletus really kill the local men to marry their women? Herodotus said so.

Alan Greaves, from Leeds University, discussed the latest evidence from Turkey. It indicates a strong native presence from the beginning at Miletus. And when Miletus founded its own colonies on the Black Sea, women played a prominent part in the adventure. They were highly valued as colonists. The legendary method of getting wives was not used then.

The war between the sexes was fought 28 centuries ago as now. Underneath the rhetoric and myths, the enemies still jumped into bed together. They still do.

# Small firms pay price for crime

THE high cost of crime is putting at risk the future of many corner shops, restaurants and small factories, a crime prevention group says today (Stewart Tendler writes). Crime Concern estimates that burglary, robbery and violence now cost small businesses £3.2 billion a year.

The group's research, based on a survey of 1,000 businesses in Leicester, suggests that small businesses are more at risk than homes and that 75 per cent of small businesses experience crime each year.

A business that had been attacked once could expect four more crimes in that year. Repeated attacks and losses put many at risk, says Crime Concern. Two thirds of small firms were one-man companies, which were very susceptible to market pressures.

# CORRECTION

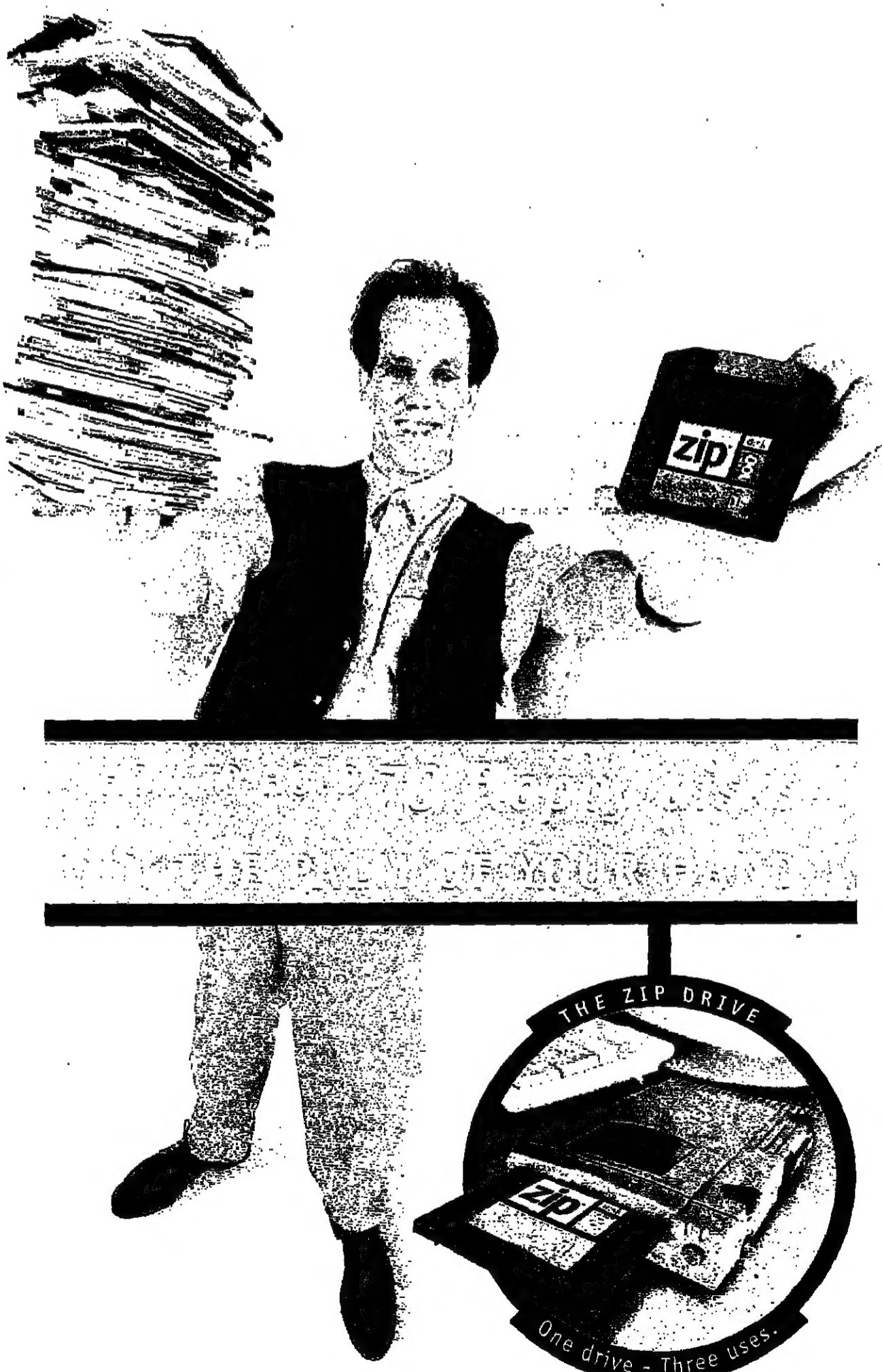
Silver being sold at Sotheby's in May and June is from the private homes of the Earls of Warwick and not, as a headline wrongly suggested yesterday, from Warwick Castle, owned by the Tussauds Group.



What happens when your daughter brings her new boyfriend home for the weekend? Does he go in the spare bedroom, or do they sleep together? Find out in Weekend

Saturday in THE TIMES

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# Girl, 6, puts cancer behind her with reverse leg surgery

By PAUL WILKINSON

SURGEONS have saved the life of a six-year-old girl with a rare operation that involved turning her leg back to front.

Sarah Dowson faced a painful and early death after doctors found a malignant cancer developing in her left thigh. The operation, known as a rotation plasty, involved cutting out the afflicted bone and rebuilding the leg, using the lower part to replace the thigh, and turning the leg through 180 degrees. Her ankle is now her knee and her calf muscle is her thigh.

Doctors fitted an artificial lower limb so that Sarah could walk again: she has already thrown away the stick she used to get about the family home in Peterlee, Co Durham. Janet Dowson, her mother, said yesterday: "She says she wants to be a normal little girl and normal little girls don't use sticks."

She added: "We are amazed by what they have done. If they had not been able to pioneer this surgery it would have meant losing her whole leg and having a big strap-on replacement."

"Sarah has been incredibly brave. Sometimes the courage she has shown amazes me: her outlook on life is always full of hope. She can be an inspiration to other children who are



Sarah: she has thrown away her walking stick

ill because of the way she has coped at such a young age."

The operation, which lasted almost eight hours, was carried out by a team of surgeons led by Joe Pooley at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. Mr Pooley cut away the girl's diseased thigh bone to below her knee, leaving her calf still attached to the nerves and blood vessels above. He then turned the bottom part of the leg so that her foot was facing backwards and grafted it back below the hip so that the ankle was

where the knee should be. Her foot is still in place, tucked into the top of the false lower leg which enables her to move the bottom half of her leg in a normal walking motion.

The operation was performed on August 27 after a series of bone scans, a small operation to determine the size of the tumour, and chemotherapy. Mrs Dowson said: "She is recovering brilliantly, though she still needs regular checks and goes to hospital once a month for X-rays."

"We thought after it was over we would be given the all-clear, but they can't guarantee it won't come back. Some days she gets depressed and says she wants her own leg back, but usually she copes very well."

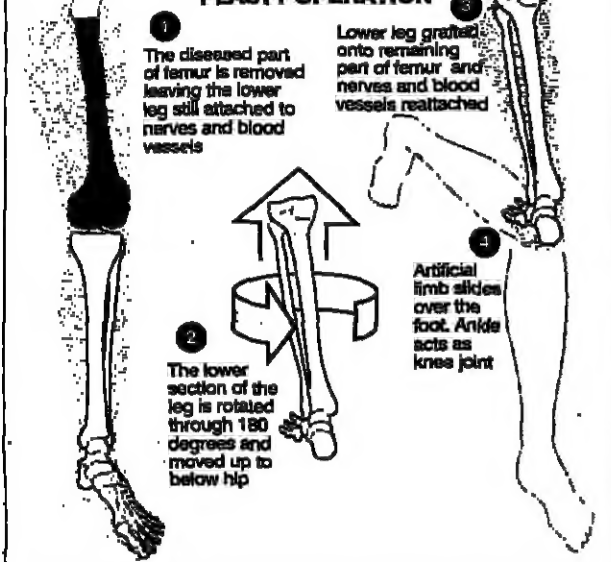
"It is her seventh birthday on Sunday and we are having a big birthday party for her. It has been quite a year for her and quite an ordeal, so it will be a special day because she deserves it."

Mr Pooley said that the rotation technique was rarely used in Britain and that Sarah's tumour was more often seen in people aged between 10 and 20. He said there was only one realistic alternative to the complex operation, which was to amputate her leg at the thigh and replace it with a larger false limb, but that would have meant Sarah having to learn to walk again.

Mr Pooley said: "The good thing about rotation is that patients don't feel as though they have lost a limb. Patients like Sarah are a shining example of what can be achieved with this process. Her family were absolutely brilliant; they have made Sarah feel a very special little girl."

Mrs Dowson, 33, and her husband, Ray, 37, a furniture factory worker, have three other children, Raymond, 13, Rebecca, 12, and Adam, 8. Earlier this year 50 regulars at Buzz nightclub in Hartlepool had a sponsored head shave to raise money for the Sargent Cancer Fund for Children in Sarah's honour, and in August she will be the first mascot at Sunderland Football Club's new stadium.

## THE ROTATION PLASTY OPERATION



Chris Moon waves across the desert in the searing heat. He said: "This shows that the only limits we have are those we put on ourselves"

## Tears of joy for Sahara runner who showed how to win in 283rd place

A disabled Briton has completed the world's toughest race. Matthew Benns followed his progress across Morocco

RUNNERS resting at the finish line cried when they saw him approaching. Chris Moon, who lost his right arm and leg in a landmine blast two years ago, had completed a 143-mile Sahara marathon. Every agonising step defied the doctors who told him he would never run again.

He carried a Union Jack streaming behind him from his rucksack for the final steps of the world's toughest foot race. The British team captain, Chris Hutchison, said: "What a sight. It brought tears to my eyes."

Mr Moon said: "I was told that it wasn't possible to get this far on a false limb. To me, this shows that the only limits we have are those we put on ourselves."

The former soldier, wounded in Mozambique while mine-clearing, was 283rd out of 343 finishers in the Marathon des Sables, with a total

time of 47 hours, 46 minutes. But as the other exhausted, blistered runners applauded him at the finishing line, his position didn't matter. He had won anyway.

He entered the marathon, in Morocco, to raise £100,000 for an International Committee of the Red Cross false-limb programme in Vietnam. From the start, Mr Moon, 34, said: "Failure is not an option for me. Every step I take helps raise money to help other mine victims and beats my own disability. It also pushes back the barriers of what is possible for people with false limbs."

By day three, in the dune section of the seven-day event, ten of the 388 runners had dropped out. Another five would quit before the finish. Scores more were rehydrated with saline drips and none had a foot without blisters. The dunes were up to 200 metres high and temperatures reached 40C.

Many runners were forced to their knees in despair, the weight of their packs also bringing up blisters on their backs. Mary Gadams, the American who came second

surface is different, and I am having to learn how to walk on it before I can get going. But when you look around you, the desert is beautiful. We ran across a dry lake bed that seemed to shimmer so it looked as though you were just walking into infinity."

In Britain, runners were preparing for the London Marathon, which Mr Moon ran last year. In the Sahara, contestants were getting ready to run the same distance over rocks. Mr Moon's left foot was covered with blisters, and there was one the size of a 50p piece on his stump, which swelled and shrank with the heat.

The former Royal Marine police officer made a joke about a former schoolfriend, the actor Ralph Fiennes: "Look at Ralph Fiennes in

The English Patient when he comes in saying he has walked for three days in the desert. What a wimp — only three days."

Organiser Patrick Bauer said: "Chris is an extraordinary man. He is running for everyone who has disabilities like him. He is very fit, but he is really doing this race on sheer willpower."

On the seventh and final day, he completed a 13-mile dash to cross the finishing line. The fastest competitor had been Lahcen Ahansal, from Morocco, with 17 hours 19 minutes. The fastest Briton was Laurence Williams, of the Royal Engineers, in twenty-sixth place with 23 hours 28 minutes.

Donations can be made through the British Red Cross on 0945 315315.



Mr Moon and the desert heartland of Morocco. The race is centred on Tagourite



## Sheep farmers urged to save endangered grouse

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

INTENSIVE sheep farming is pushing the black grouse in England and Wales towards extinction, scientists and conservationists said yesterday as they launched a ten-year scheme to reverse the bird's rapid decline.

Artificial winter feeding of sheep and sharp increases in the numbers of lambs being born on the moors, encouraged by agriculture subsidies, are destroying the heather moorland habitat on which the grouse thrive. Numbers in the Pennines, the birds' last home in England, have halved in the past seven to eight years to around 500 males; the annual decrease is running at 10 per cent.

Sheep farmers and landowners are paid about £25 for every sheep they take off the moor under a so-called agri-environment Moorland Scheme. But the Ministry of Agriculture pays them nearly 30 per cent more, or up to £35 per sheep, to keep them there.

Dr David Baines, of the Game Conservancy Trust, said: "The percentage of lambs is going up. There is also a lot more feeding of

sheep on the hill in winter. This causes problems. It concentrates sheep into particular areas, usually the edge of the moorland, where the black grouse like to live. And when the sheep have eaten the supplementary food they eat the heather." Black grouse need young, nutritious heather tips to survive.

Under the North Pennine Grouse Recovery Project, the trust, English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, the Ministry of Defence, which owns land in the Pennines used as shooting ranges, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are setting



Black grouse: males are down to 500

up a number of demonstration conservation areas. They are being centred on MoD ranges at Catterick, Omerburn and Wancop, as well as at an RAF range at Spadeadam. Landowners and tenant farmers are to be asked to forgo agricultural payments for sheep in favour of heather conservation grants.

Dr Baines said the first aim was to halt the decline and then double numbers to 1,000 males over ten years. John Barrett, senior conservation officer with English Nature's Northumbria team, said: "The black grouse is a species which is an excellent indicator of habitat quality. Its decline in numbers and distribution in the North of England is a clear indication that not all well with black grouse habitat."

At a press conference yesterday in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, the trust, a charity founded in 1973, launched a recruitment drive aimed at increasing membership from 9,000 to 25,000 by the year 2000.

Since 1900 more than 20 breeds of British farm animals have become extinct.

## Pony joins growing legion of rare breeds

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A RARE pony found only in the British Isles is being singled out by conservationists to win more public support for breeding programmes to save native livestock from extinction.

The Eriskay pony, originally from the Western Isles, is down to a hundred breeding mares and has joined nearly 60 other types of cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, goats and poultry under the protection of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Lawrence Alderson, director of the trust, said: "It is vital that we maintain the genetic diversity of our domesticated animals. It is a sad fact that many of our native livestock are now rare."

At a press conference yesterday in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, the trust, a charity founded in 1973, launched a recruitment drive aimed at increasing membership from 9,000 to 25,000 by the year 2000.

Since 1900 more than 20 breeds of British farm animals have become extinct.

## Feather test for poachers

FEATHERS are being collected from birds of prey to convict poachers who trade in them illegally. The feathers will be used to create a DNA database which can identify whether the birds have been bred in captivity or taken from the wild.

The DNA genetic fingerprint is singular to each bird and can also indicate its parentage, enabling police

and other agencies to determine its origin. Possession of a bird taken in the wild is an offence, but until now suspects can escape prosecution by claiming that the birds were born legally in captivity.

The system, being tested in large areas of upland northern England, will be extended to the rest of the country as soon as possible if it proves successful.

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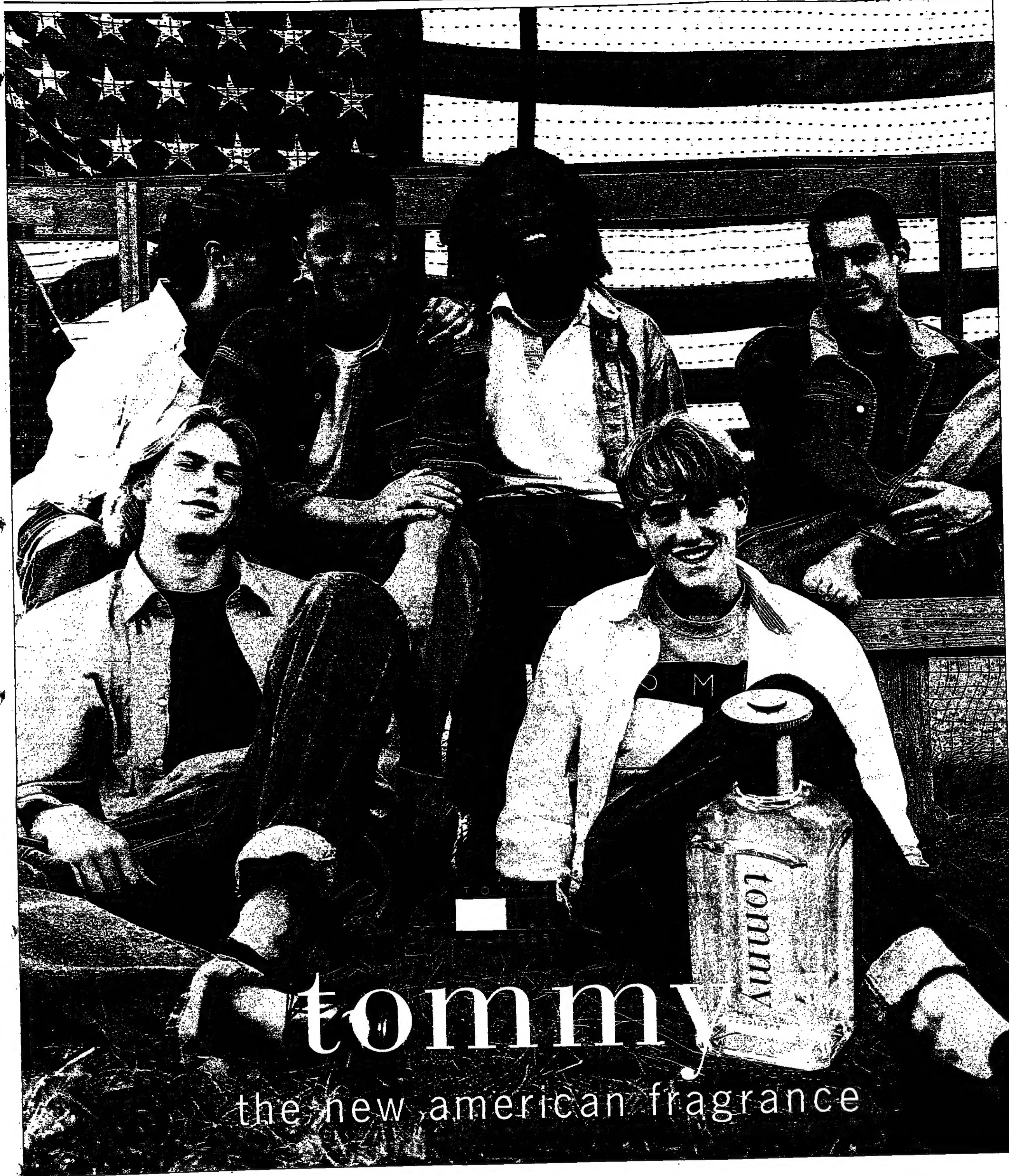
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# Dieting mothers pass on heavy burden to girls

BY IAN MURRAY

MOTHERS who diet make their daughters eat less, researchers have found. A survey of 400 12-year-old girls shows that those who eat fewer meals or snacks have mothers who started dieting from a young age and who have gone on frequent diets since.

Dr Helen Edmunds and Dr Andrew Hill, of Leeds University School of Medicine, asked the state school girls and their mothers to fill out questionnaires about their eating habits. The answers showed that the girls who scored highly on dietary restraint tended to be heavier despite eating less, were more liable to fast and had a lower self-esteem. They also reported significantly more parental control of their diets, especially where overeating was concerned, than girls who tended to eat what they liked. The mothers of the dieting girls confirmed that they exerted a high degree of control over their children's eating. They admitted, too, that they began dieting when young and continued to do so more frequently than other mothers of a similar weight.

The report, which was presented yesterday to the Third London International Conference on Eating Disorders, says the evidence shows that

parents must recognise their influence on children's diets and must therefore give them sensible advice.

Another study in Arkansas found that adolescents with eating disorders had difficulty with family relationships. "Parents of these patients can also have a difficult time separating their child from the eating disorder and can often come across as blaming and overly critical," the study says.

In another report, the Leeds team asked 314 girls aged just under ten which three classmates they liked most and which ones they felt were most attractive. They found that girls who ate sparingly, but were heavier than their peers, were significantly less popular and were judged to be less attractive than girls who ate what they liked. In two thirds of cases, popular girls were also thought to be attractive.

"These findings highlight the social isolation of girls who tend to be heavier than their peers," the report says. However, Dr Kelly Vitousek, of the University of Hawaii, told the conference that peer pressure could be a factor. "Fourteen-year-old girls can come to the conclusion that they make more friends, form closer ties with their teacher, achieve higher

grades and more celebrated accomplishments if they skip lunch," she said. Isolated girls were often the most vulnerable to anorexia.

Another study in Melbourne, Australia, found that "fat talk" was a main topic among schoolgirls and increased significantly as they grew older. The girls told the researchers that "body comparison" between them and fashion models was common and led them to consider or initiate dieting.

The quest for perfectionism appears to be one of the driving factors in eating disorders. A study in Vancouver, Canada, found women suffering from anorexia nervosa had far higher standards than normal people or those suffering from other psychiatric conditions. Early identification of perfectionism among young girls might give an early warning of an eating disorder.

Opening the conference, Dr Bryan Lask, of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, questioned the modern fixation with weight and shape. "We can be over-preoccupied with that," he said. "There are three billion women in the world who don't look like models and only eight who do. Yet all the media attention is focused on the eight."



Nicky Welsh, a cystic fibrosis patient, counting up her daily intake of pills with Diana, Princess of Wales, at London's Royal Brompton Hospital yesterday. Mrs Welsh, 29, a keen football supporter, had hoped to ask the Princess for help to obtain Cup Final tickets - but forgot to ask. "My husband and his family are mad Chelsea fans, and I was going to ask if she could get six tickets," she said. "I was concentrating so much on everything else that it slipped

## Patient misses sporting chance on royal visit

my mind. The Princess has a very calming influence, but I must have been concentrating on showing her my wedding photographs. She cuddled me and said I was shaking like a leaf." The Princess agreed to visit the hospital to publicise the plight of cystic fibrosis sufferers. Mrs Welsh is wait-

ing for a heart and lung transplant by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub. In the meantime she has to take 69 tablets a day with two insulin injections and other medicine. Professor Yacoub was unable to meet the Princess as he was delayed in the Royal Brompton's operating theatre.

"He had an extremely complex case," a hospital spokeswoman said. The Princess perched on Mrs Welsh's bed to look at the wedding pictures and set off an alarm. A nurse found that the Princess had sat on the patient's red call button. "If she'd sat on the white one, which is cardiac arrest, everyone would have come running," Mrs Welsh said. Later the Princess visited a children's ward, where she met 12 patients with the inherited disease.

## Family sues over school race abuse

A young girl was so humiliated by racist playground taunts that she put talcum powder on her face to lighten her skin, her mother said. Katie Jarvie, 10, whose father is Afro-Caribbean, said she wished she was dead after enduring 18 months of abuse.

Linda Jarvie, 28, of Muir of Ord, is suing Highland Council for £20,000, claiming that teachers at Tarradale primary school did not implement the Race Relations Act and failed to stop the bullying.

## Funeral for Zoe

Zoe Evans, the nine-year-old found murdered near Warminster, Wiltshire, in February, was buried at a funeral service at the town's Minster, attended by hundreds of mourners. Her stepfather, Miles Evans, 23, has been charged with her murder.

## Tarantula legs it

A tarantula the size of an adult's hand has probably died from cold after giving its owner the slip while being exercised in woods at Weymouth, London Zoo said. "Our sympathies should be with the spider. It is unlikely to survive even a short time."

## Re-released

The press release written for Paul McCartney after the murder of John Lennon in 1980 is estimated to fetch £15,000 at Christie's on May 29. The statement, with amendments by McCartney, said: "John was a great man who will be sadly missed by the world."

## Guard dog stolen

A Staffordshire bull terrier bought as a guard dog has been stolen by burglars from a home in Gravesend, Kent. They also took clothes, money and seven-month-old Arnie's lead, but they left behind a television and a video recorder.

## Peacock attack

A peacock that attacked a four-year-old boy at a garden centre has been put down. Gregory Beck was pecked by the bird on his forehead and shoulder when visiting Fendley Nurseries at Titchfield, near Fareham, Hampshire, with his parents.

## The problems when a baby is very big news

THE ideal weight for a baby is probably between 7½ and 8½ lbs. Too little and they are prone to cardiovascular disease in later life; too heavy and, without a Caesarian delivery, mother and child may both suffer at the birth.

Thanks to modern midwifery, Reece Curson Thompson has been delivered weighing 14½ lbs in Consett, Co Durham. He comes from a family of large babies: his elder sister was 9½ lb 3oz, his brother 12½ lb 3oz and his younger sister 11½ lb 3oz.

Once an ultrasound has warned the doctor that a baby is likely to be more than 10½ lb or less, in some cases — a



Dr Thomas Stuttford

Caesarian section is usually the preferred option for the mother. Delivery of Reece's head might have been possible, but would probably have resulted in unacceptable lacerations and tears to his mother. Delivering the shoulders can be more tricky. Shoulder dystocia — shoul-

ders jammed in the pelvis — is damaging to the mother and, even if the baby is not asphyxiated, it can result in serious injuries to the child's central or peripheral nervous system. The usual technique to deliver a baby after shoulder dystocia is to put two fingers under each of the baby's armpits,

and then for the doctor to place his or her feet against the end of the bed, to pull with all the weight at their command.

As the baby is delivered its colour, one always prays, will change from purple to pink as it utters a first grateful cry. Too often, however, damage is done to the nerves leading to the arms. In other cases, too vigorous a tug misapplied to the head can dislocate the neck. Shoulder dystocia is a common cause for claims for damages. Unfortunately, even with ultrasound and a CT scan, its likelihood cannot always be predicted.

Having a large baby can be

a warning to the mother that she is at risk of developing diabetes later. The hormonal imbalance which causes babies to be so large as to vie for the record books can be a harbinger of problems with glucose metabolism. Research many years ago suggested that as many as 30 per cent of mothers who had a baby over 10½ lb might develop diabetes.

In the past, poorly controlled diabetic mothers tended to produce very large, very unhealthy babies. Fortunately modern treatment makes this hazard unlikely.

Letters, page 23

## Transplants wrong, parents tell court

BY RICHARD DUCE

A MOTHER whose baby son was left brain-damaged after a heart operation would rather die than undergo similar transplant surgery, the High Court was told yesterday.

Linda Poynter, 38, believes transplants to be wrong on religious grounds, and said that she agreed to a new heart for 16-month-old Matthew because doctors at Harefield Hospital pressured her and her husband, Kevin. She said: "Sometimes with medical things we do overstep the

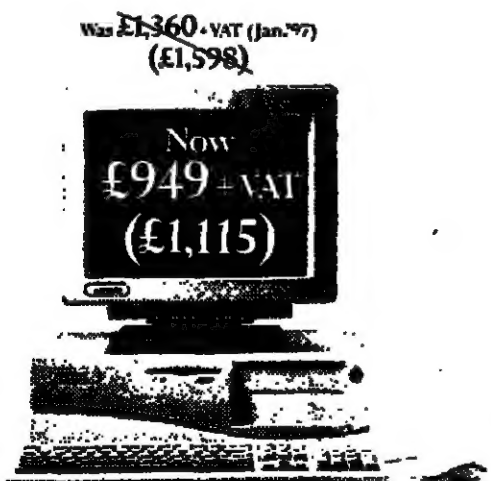
mark. It is the same with sheep-cloning."

The couple, both vegetarians, from Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, are suing Hillingdon Health Authority over the 1987 operation by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub. They said they were not told of the risk of brain damage.

Rosemary Radley-Smith, a consultant cardiologist who treated Matthew, conceded that she gave no such advice, because the possibility was assessed at less than 1 per cent. The risk was now made clear. The case continues.

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## 'New' Clark babes in fav

THERE was a direct familiar glint in Alan Clark's eyes as, wearing a rakish smile, he made the line for the amped-up young women staring at the pavement. "Hello, yes! I'm Alan Clark, pleased to meet you, local!"

The true focus of attention, however, was the thirty-something who swooned over him. He was a 1980s film star, his twin babies, Oliver and Marcello, gurgling in a pram. And if there was a room for doubt as to Mr Clark's intentions yesterday at his side stood his wife Jane, who stuck to him like glue throughout his walkabout.

This was New Clark, reformed character actor and television politician, on his knees with the voters of Kensington and Chelsea. With his selection as the Tory candidate to replace Nicholas Soames, he has managed a remarkable comeback from retirement, during which he is extremely grateful. He clearly intends to seize the opportunity.



Alan and Jane Clark indulging in



# ELECTION 97

POLL DAY  
-15

**Paddy Ashdown keeps his feet on the ground**

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**Labour's 'least tribal politician'**  
On the campaign trail with Frank Field

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**In search of the elusive Mr Hogg**

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The sun is out and in a couple of weeks the Tories will be out, Labour leader promises the crowd

## We are going to win, confident Blair announces

By James Landale and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR let his confidence get the better of him yesterday and predicted for the first time that Labour would win the election.

The Labour leader, who styles himself the "eternal warrior against complacency", usually refuses to admit that he is heading for an election victory. He fears that Labour supporters will not bother to vote if they feel the May 1 poll will result in a landslide.

But as Mr Blair arrived yesterday for a walkabout in Crawley, West Sussex, he blurted out to the crowd: "The sun is out and in a couple of weeks the Tories will be out."

Mr Blair's unqualified remarks reflect his increasing confidence as the Tories fail to make much headway in the opinion polls. He is convinced that his new strategy of painting Labour as the only party with a positive agenda will have a strong impact on voters disillusioned with the election campaign.

Mr Blair added: "We have a great country but a lousy government. Never mind all this negative campaigning. These people deserve a better government than the one they have got. If in two weeks' time we get the trust and support of the people, we can win."

During his walkabout, Mr Blair was challenged by two Tory activists who questioned him about Labour's plans for a minimum wage. In another encounter, David Fletcher, 22, a musician, asked: "Tony, what are you going to do about British rock music?" Mr Blair replied: "I will tell you what I am going to do for British rock music. I am never going to play in a band again."

Mr Blair, who was lead singer for a band called the Ugly Rumours at Oxford, then signed a Jimi Hendrix tape cassette with the words: "To Jimi, Tony Blair."

Earlier Mr Blair had been accused by Michael Heseltine of "appalling hypocrisy". The Deputy Prime Minister attacked the Labour leader, insisting that he was trying to deny choice in education while sending his children to the grant-maintained London Oratory school in Fulham.

"I cannot stand the hypocrisy of a man who says he would deny choice in the education system and then opts for choice for his own children," Mr Heseltine said. Mr Blair should have sought action from the Labour councillors who run education in his home area of Islington to improve schools. "When he

had to make that judgment himself [about choice], he could not face the appalling hypocrisy of what he had done. He made a decision that suited himself," Mr Heseltine said. "A man who would do that is not fit to direct the nation's education, let alone become Prime Minister."

Mr Blair dismissed Mr Heseltine's attack angrily as a further example of Tory negative campaigning. Speaking during a visit to Brighton, Mr Blair said: "The Tories are getting very, very personalised about it, very abusive. But it is water off a duck's back. The public will make their own judgment. As for their attacks, it is sticks and stones."

He said that the Tories were desperate. "What is important is that we carry on talking to the people about what they want to hear about, schools, hospitals and law and order."

Mr Blair was asked later about Mr Heseltine's attack while holding a question-and-answer session at Brighton University. He said: "My children go to state schools. Most of them [the Tories] send their children to private schools. The school that he [Euan] goes to, he could have gone to at any time in the past 30 years or could in the future under a Labour government."



Tony Blair on a campaign walkabout yesterday in Crawley, West Sussex

## Past record lets Tories count on fairweather friend

By Glen Owen

THE sun is not backing Blair. With the Met Office forecasting a sunny polling day, the Labour Party will not be taking comfort from past links between fine weather and recent election victories for the Conservatives.

The Conservatives associate a low-voter turnout with election victory. Last autumn, John Major was reported to be considering a December election, in the hope that chilly winter weather on polling day would keep people from the booths. But past results suggest otherwise.

In the month running up to the last election, on April 9, 1992, when Mr Major secured a 21-seat majority, 25 per cent less rain fell than usual. The average temperature for the month was 11.7°C (53°F), 1.5°C higher than usual.

In the month before June 11, 1987, conditions were also pleasant, with 25 per cent less rainfall and temperatures holding up to the usual 16.2°C (61°F). Margaret Thatcher won a 102-seat majority.

Although the run-up to June 9, 1983, was less congenial, with 86 per cent more rain than usual falling, polling day itself was a warm 20°C (68°F), with 4.5 hours of sunshine. Margaret Thatcher romped home with a 143-seat majority.

The lead up to her first election victory, on May 3, 1979, when she claimed a 43-seat majority, bucked this

mini-trend, after a month in which 54 per cent more rain fell than usual. On the day itself, the average maximum temperature was 10.7°C (51.2°F), nearly six degrees below the usual for the month.

Bob Worcester, from MORI, detects a trend. "Bad weather on polling day will typically benefit the incumbent Government, unless there is a strong mood for change. Then the weather is irrelevant."

He points to the result on February 28, 1974, the last time Labour formed a government. It came after one of the wettest months on record, with nearly twice the average rainfall. On polling day itself, it was raining over two-thirds of the country.

"Back then, bad weather favoured the Conservatives on polling day because their traditional voters could afford to drive to the booths, while Labour supporters were more likely to have to walk. But this did not apply then because there was a strong desire to remove the Conservatives from power."

Tony Blair will want to look to the example of Thursday, October 15, 1964, when Labour came to power after 13 years of Conservative rule. On polling day, voters were treated to 5.7 hours of sunshine, and unseasonably high temperatures of more than 20°C.

Weather, page 28

## 'New' Clark ignores Chelsea babes in favour of their babies

THERE was a dangerously familiar glint in Alan Clark's eyes as, wearing his most rakish smile, he made a beeline for the ample-chested young woman standing on the pavement. "How are you? I'm Alan Clark. Very pleased to meet you. Are you local?"

The true focus of his attention, however, was not the thirty-something blonde who swooned over him as if he were a 1950s film star, but her twin babies, Olivia and Marcello, gurgling in their pram. And if there was any room for doubt as to Mr Clark's intentions yesterday, at his side stood his wife, Jane, who stuck to him like glue throughout his walkabout.

This was New Clark, reformed character and born-again politician, on the hustings with the voters of Kensington and Chelsea. With his selection as the Tory candidate to replace Sir Nicholas Scott, he has managed a remarkable comeback from retirement, for which he is extremely grateful. He clearly intends to seize the opportunity: no



**Carol Midgley goes walkabout with a guarded Alan Clark in Kensington and Chelsea and sees a "class act" greeted like a national treasure**

frivolity for him during this election campaign.

"I am trying to be taken more seriously," he said gravely within minutes of our meeting yesterday (for which he wore the soberest of grey suits and least natty of ties). "I am reducing my profile in a personality sense, although I am out meeting people in the constituency all the time."

Is he now reformed in the philandering sense? "Well, that has been very over-depicted anyway, perhaps because of the diaries. People think I am some kind of sex maniac. I just told the truth."

A ripple of alarm had crossed Mr Clark's face when he was asked if he would mind his photograph

being taken by *The Times*. "Not with you, surely?" he said sharply, seeming to sense a set up. When he was assured that it was not him with female journalist, but him with voters that was required, he relaxed again. "Oh well, yes that's fine," he said.

Interviewing Alan Clark is an unnerving experience: one fears that behind the youthful blue eyes and smile, a razor-like brain is working and, perhaps, lining up a derogatory aside for his next diary. New Clark is exceptionally guarded, but without any real need. On a walkabout in Kensington, he was a class act, greeted like a national treasure, even by Labour voters.

"Ooh, you're Alan Clark

aren't you?" gushed a doting octogenarian blushing like a schoolgirl. "You can have my vote. Lovely."

"You're the one who wrote the diaries, aren't you?" said a man in his fifties. "It's got a green cover hasn't it. My wife bought it but is saving it for her holidays."

Mr Clark, 69, seemed to take care to avoid shaking hands with middle women, preferring pensioners instead, but could not resist the twins. He himself, he explained, has a young grandchild on whom he and Jane dote.

"No way, no way am I voting for you. I've read the diaries," said another woman, adding almost fondly, "but I did enjoy them."

Butchers, estate agents and flower sellers leapt from their posts to shake the hand of the man who called people in his last constituency, Plymouth Sutton, "boring, petty, malign, clumsily conspiratorial and parochial". Many just recognised him as "the man from the telly". It is a testament to his legendary likeability that during an election campaign dominated by sleaze, a man who admits to having sex with two sisters and their mother has barely been mentioned. Mr Clark insists on behaving honorably. "I won't say anything about it. I won't ever spill on the girls, despite everything."

The wronged husband, James Harkess, 67, who arrived in London from his home in South Africa last week, says he has no option but to campaign for the Labour candidate in the constituency, Robert Atkinson, claiming Mr Clark is "a man unsuitable for politics".

After visiting the site of proposed new public lavatories and pushing leaflets through a few doors, Mr Clark rolled up at the Home for Distressed Gentlefolk. As he signed the visitor's book, the women receptionists resisted telling him that at his age he was eligible to be a resident himself. They were too busy gazing into his eyes.

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Alan and Jane Clark indulging in some "serious" campaigning yesterday



# Labour pledges to bring scientists back to Britain

Jill Sherman reports on the party's proposed endowment trust

LABOUR promised yesterday to reverse the brain drain by attracting scientists back to Britain through a new trust for science and technology.

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts would be set up on the lines of the National Trust and provide start-up grants in exchange for a proportion of long-term royalties from new products. The aim would be to attract endowments for sci-

entists and inventors from copyrights or patents of their inventions and discoveries.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed to have won the support of leading scientists for Labour's initiative. As proof, it published messages of support from 21 scientists, some of whom had abandoned Britain for better opportunities abroad.

Four scientists appeared in a video endorsing the new

fund. These included Michael Duff, Distinguished Professor of Physics at Texas A & M University, who left Britain after successive Conservative Governments failed to provide adequate support. In response to Labour's proposal, he said: "This is just the sort of fillip that weary British scientists are sorely in need of. It will also help to create the kind of environment that will again make Britain the sort of place

that UK scientists abroad will want to come home to."

The other endorsements came from Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, Dr Mary Harris, director-general of the Year of Engineering Success, and Trevor Baylis, inventor of the clockwork radio.

Education zones: Labour also announced plans yesterday to set up "education action zones" to boost standards in inner city schools.



Scientists, left to right, Trevor Baylis, Dr Mary Harris and Sir Martin Rees back plan to set up science trust

## Gain matches drain as comings and goings make a myth out of theory

THE Labour Party's ambition to reverse the "brain drain" and reinforce the science base cannot be achieved for nothing. Yesterday's announcements were full of declarations of intent but coy about the sources of new finance without which there will be little to tempt British scientists home.

Much depends on the success of the planned National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, which has been promised lottery money. Labour also hopes that successful scientists and in-

**Nigel Hawkes believes that Labour will have to guarantee tenured positions and research support to lure top British scientists home from abroad**

ventors, presumably those who have become rich despite all the obstacles put in their way during the past 18 years, will help to endow it.

Most British scientists who go abroad do so because they are offered jobs and research grants.

Twenty years on and with their most productive years behind them, some may feel like coming home, but it is not because Labour's science policy is essentially any different from that of the Tories. In America, science budgets are also under pressure. The

most recent US budget calls for cuts that have sent shivers through the scientific community. So a Labour government with the right mood music might persuade some scientists to return. But the most successful would need tenured positions and guarantees of research support to take the risk.

Opinions differ over whether the brain drain does much damage. The most recent report, produced by the Science and Engineering Policy Studies Unit in 1993, showed that 447 British scientists

and engineers left between 1984 and 1992. But over the same period, 462 entered the country; 144 were British citizens returning, and the other 318 were immigrants. The report concluded that the emigration rate had not increased: if anything, it may have diminished slightly since the 1970s. The worry was that it was the top quality people who were leaving.

Britain trains more scientists than it can afford to employ in research and then we feel we have failed when they choose to work

elsewhere. Once abroad, they tend to exaggerate the exigencies that drove them there. In reality, as a recent study by Sir Robert May, the Government's chief scientific adviser, showed, British science is still in the top rank. In terms of spending, a subject on which Sir Robert is now preparing a second paper, the record is not so good.

The research budget has been maintained in money terms, if not in real terms, in recent years. There are serious problems over university equipment, much of which is

overdue for replacement, and over career prospects. The same complaints are heard in America.

Over the years, Britain has probably gained at least as much from scientific mobility as it has lost. From Ernest Rutherford — a New Zealander by birth — through the Jewish scientists exiled by the Nazis in the 1930s, to Professor Plomin and Sir Robert May himself, an Australian who has held chairs at home, in the US and at Oxford, Britain has a substantial brain gain to boast about.

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## Blair should find time for man who can square circles



Frank Field always has new angles on old problems, writes Peter Riddell, and his fresh thinking could get Labour out of some tight corners

FRANK FIELD is Labour's most original and, least tribal politician — a Blairite before Tony Blair, though never one of his inner circle, always willing to challenge the party's conventional thinking, almost at the cost of his seat in the 1980s, and respected across party lines and outside Westminster, even by Margaret Thatcher.

If anyone could break out of the bland cynicism of Labour's safety-first national campaign, surely it would be him.

Yesterday as we strolled around the Birkenhead constituency he has represented since 1979 Mr Field was, as ever, full of ideas. He believes, however, that a cautious Labour campaign was necessary. "We could not be elected on any other programme."

His worries are more about what happens after May 1 — about problems no one has even thought about, to say nothing of how to stay within the tight expenditure constraints left by the Tories, and accepted by Labour. He believes a new government will gradually have to build up support for a reformed programme: for example, by a consultative Green Paper exercise on changes to the welfare state before legislation.

Mr Field is forever looking for room for new initiatives. For instance, he wants to use the money saved by switching from student grants to loans to help single mothers into work by expanding childcare facilities. But this would immediately run into Treasury accounting conventions about what must be classified as public expenditure. If Mr Field has his way, some cherished Treasury conventions will have to be challenged.

He is also looking for greater flexibility in the way the welfare state works. For instance, at present, 60 per cent of rents paid on council houses and housing association properties are financed by housing benefits. This discourages people from seeking work. So he would like to increase the flexibility and overlap between those on benefits and work while cracking down on real fraud.

he says. The aesthetic High Anglican Mr Field is an unlikely advocate of boxing. But he has become president of some local amateur clubs which, he says, offer safer outlets for the aggressiveness of young men than fighting on the streets.

Throughout, he links possible national proposals with his constituency — with single mothers he meets on a housing estate or the help given to less talented pupils at a local Catholic comprehensive school. The headteacher there is, he says, just like Lady Thatcher, "wonderful". Few Labour politicians would ever cite her in such complimentary terms.

Mr Field says that this school has developed a programme to encourage numeracy and literacy, information technology and social skills among young girls which encourages them to seek proper jobs rather than quickly become



Frank Field: always willing to surprise

single mothers. Indeed, Mr Field believes that the pupils should only be allowed to leave school when they have achieved certain basic qualifications rather than simply by becoming 16.

It is this unconventional pragmatism which a Labour government will need, given that it is already pledged to operate within tight expenditure constraints. For him, the test of a Labour government in five years' time will be whether it has started to reform the welfare state to link people's self-interest to responsibility and to move from dependency to opportunity.

At the election after next, Mr Field hopes that voters will be able to move from "trust us to trust fulfilled". It is all, he says, up to whether Tony Blair wants to be just prime minister or a great prime minister. Mr Field leaves no one in any doubt that he wants to be part of Mr Blair's team.

## Tory margin of cake for Blair

Lord Archer says

IT was not much of a lunch for a multi-millionaire just a baked potato and a glass of Coke. But Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, 57 yesterday said he was enjoying himself.

No cards, no pretence, no hold for the Tories. Yesterday morning he was in the Stoddart working the margins, Tweddle, Erick and the denials and Rowlands. A day tour of Scotland around his main campaign role of organising the rallies for John Major and for Michael Heseltine.

He is as the war-time man, working the crowd of Tory faithful. He admits, never beforehand, although not as bad as the Prime Minister or "Margaret". "They are roaming around

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# Farmers tell Major culling begins at home

Alan Hamilton reports that Devon cattlemen refuse to back Tories unless Agriculture Minister is sacked

WHAT the hard-pressed farmers of Devon want is a Hogg cull. Unless John Major can assure them that a future Conservative government will eliminate all traces of Hogg from Britain's farms, they will not vote for it.

Farmers are usually a down-to-earth breed, but when they confronted the Prime Minister in the auction ring of Tavistock cattle market yesterday, they could not bring the name for the ailment to their lips as though it were some taboo, an embarrassing rash. They constantly referred to it by its drawing-room euphemism "the Minister of Agriculture".

Mr Major, like a prevaricating vet who will not tell you straight what is wrong with your cow, dodged the issue, but hinted that he had a cure for Hogg in his medicine bag. A re-elected Tory Government would start with a fresh team and he himself would take a hands-on approach to the Ministry of Agriculture. It was not clear whether this operation would require him to wear a rubber glove up to his elbow.

Tavistock is at the heart of the intensively farmed constituency, the second biggest in England, of Devon West and Torridge, held last time by Emma Nicholson with a 3,800 majority until she was captured by aliens, injected with a Martian strain of mad cow disease and turned into a Liberal Democrat. The Tories have rather smartly replaced her as candidate by importing good Scotch stock, Ian Liddell-Grainger is a bluff beef farmer who knows all about cattle culls.

Even his campaign director, Lord Stockton, grandson of Harold MacMillan, has become a farmer, with 350 acres outside Tavistock. The

Liberal Democrat challenger, a local councillor with no farm, appears to be starting at a serious disadvantage.

Mr Liddell-Grainger was predictably loyal about the Government's handling of the BSE crisis. "I was fairly critical at the time, but I did not see what else we could do to get where we are now."

The local farmers were much less tolerant. Sandy Loud and Ruth Burrow, two local beef and dairy farmers, sported bright yellow T-shirts with the legend "This cow isn't mad, she's bloody livid" on the front and "No more Bull" on the back. Mr Major hugged them warmly. "I have met you before." He certainly had: the two women wore their T-shirts to last year's Tory conference.

"If only we had got rid of Hogg from the start, this crisis would never have happened; he has been hopelessly weak in Europe. They must get rid of Hogg and be strong in Europe," Mrs Loud said. Mrs Burrow added: "Put somebody in the Min of Ag who understands farmers. Hogg is a lawyer for heaven's sake."

The women told Mr Major that the beef industry would suffer for at least the next eight years. "Get rid of Hogg and I think the Conservatives can win back the farming vote," Mrs Burrow said.

John Dawe, local branch chairman of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), was another who was blunt with Mr Major. "I made it clear that I would not vote Tory if I had the slightest suspicion that man was going back as Agriculture Minister," Richard Haddock, vice-chairman of the Devon NFU, told the Prime Minister that lowland beef was the one sector of farming still not properly



The Prime Minister meets children at Erme County Primary School in Ivybridge, Devon, yesterday

subsidised and that if the Government did not do something about it pretty damn quick, 5,000 farmers would go bankrupt.

Mr Major made all the right soothing noises, as though trying to calm a panicky heifer. "I do not believe there was ever a justification for the banning of British beef across Europe; there was panic." Britain had honoured its side of the BSE elimination agreement with Europe. Now it was time for other European countries to introduce beef hygiene controls as tough as those in Britain, he added. That went down particularly well.

The questioning turned technical. Would Mr Major

commit himself to laying his hands on the £200 million in the European Union kitty earmarked for ironing out adjustments in the green pound? Mr Major would not commit himself; green pound expertise is not always immediately to hand at 3 o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon.

The one way for Mr Major to ensure the votes of the Tavistock farmers would be to say that he intended to appoint Angela Browning, Mr Bobby, Dr Frankenstein or indeed anyone else as Agriculture Minister. After May 1, of course, a Hogg cull may prove unnecessary. Mother nature often has her own way of dealing with troublesome ailments.

## Leaders score badly in Spice Girls quiz

JOHN MAJOR elegantly baited away tricky questions on the single currency, unemployment and the Tories' electoral prospects yesterday, but was clearly bowled by the nightmare poser for any politician keen to enhance his street credibility: name the Spice Girls (Arthur Leathley writes).

The Prime Minister was challenged to better Tony Blair's attempt to put names to the five members of the all-girl band that has swept Britain and America.

Mr Blair was ridiculed when he was able to name only three of the quintet, but Mr Major failed to hit even such modest heights, proffering the names of just two of the singers, Mel and Geri. He was unable to specify which of the duo of Mel B or C, he was referring to.

The Prime Minister was hit with the googly at the end of an interview with journalists in Plymouth. In vain he had he appealed to his interrogator to ask him questions about opera.

## Damian Whitworth trots after one little Hogg who never got to market

LIKE so many of the cows which must trouble his dreams at night, Douglas Hogg did not make it to market yesterday.

The Agriculture Minister, who has been notably absent from the general election limelight, was due to make his debut on the national campaign stage. In the event, the whole thing was something of a pig's ear.

Amid the continuing fallout from the BSE crisis it has clearly been the view of Conservative Central Office that this Hogg would not wash with the voters and he has been kept firmly out of sight. He has been among the band of Cabinet ministers who have not appeared at any of the morning Westminster press conferences; nor is it planned that he should do so.

But yesterday, after John Major's decision to go face to face with the fishermen of Cornwall, it was billed that Mr Hogg would be squaring up to his nemesis. Midlands press spokesmen said that Mr Hogg would be visiting a Staffordshire market. However, while Mr Major went into the lions' den and found that most of the lions were out fishing, Mr Hogg, who has recovered enough from an injured ankle to cast off his crutches, poked his head into the lair and quickly pulled it out again.

In one respect poor Mr Hogg was blameless. The market in Cannock does not trade in livestock and although the area, which was once busy with mining, has much agriculture, it is uncertain how many sons of the soil he would have encountered. But Mr Hogg would not have discovered that because he did not discover the market.

If this does not rank as the shortest town centre walkabout of 1997 it will be intriguing to see which fleet-footed candidate beats him.

Mr Hogg emerged from the Cannock Unionist Club and set off with the local candidate, John Backhouse, at a brisk trot.

His first encounter with the public was with a couple quietly tucking into a picnic on a patch of grass. "How are you today?" asked the minister. The couple, mouths full of sandwiches, grimaced and shooed him away. "Lovely to meet you," Mr Hogg said and scampered on into the shopping centre.

"Hello, nice to meet you," he chirped. "I am not your candidate," he added hurriedly. "This is your local Conservative candidate, John Backhouse," he told shoppers.

To his credit, however many people told him to go away Mr Hogg was irrepressibly cheerful and eventually was rewarded with an encounter with some supporters. At last he could pause for breath before heading off again, skipping quickly past a butcher's (to the disappointment of photographers), round the corner and... back to the Unionist Club where the regulars were barely half way through the pints they had started when he left ten minutes earlier.



Hogg: back among his friends in record time

## Tory marginals a piece of cake for birthday boy

Lord Archer loves elections, writes Gillian Bowditch

IT was not much of a birthday lunch for a multi-millionaire, just a baked potato with cheese washed down by a glass of Coke. But Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, 57 yesterday, said he was enjoying himself enormously.

No cards, no presents, no cake: everything has been put on hold for the election. Yesterday morning found him in the Scottish Borders working the marginal seats of Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale and Roxburgh and Berwickshire, part of a three-day tour of Scotland fitted around his main campaign role of organising the eight rallies for John Major and six for Michael Heseltine.

He acts as the warm-up man, working the crowd of Tory faithful. He admits to nerves beforehand, although not as bad as the Prime Minister or "Margaret". "They are roaming around,



Archer, 57 yesterday, campaigns in Scotland

fidgiting, getting nervous every time," he says.

But for such a veteran of the campaign trail, (this is his tenth election), he must feel he has been fobbed off with a job which under-utilises his skills

as a publicist and front-man. "Everyone knows I wanted to be party chairman. That's no secret but we've got a chairman and that's the end of that discussion," he says.

It seems a far cry from the days when he played a central role in Conservative affairs, indulged by Mrs Thatcher, loved by the party faithful and loathed by some who felt he was a loose cannon.

So why does he keep doing it? The answer is obvious as we step into the bright sunshine of Galashiels shopping centre. He loves it. He shakes hands with everyone before thrusting Alister Jack, the local candidate forward.

"Jeffrey Archer, pleased to meet you," he says. The response is remarkable. They are all delighted to meet him. Autographs are requested, visiting foreigners promise to vote for him. The town's traffic warden stops for a chat, even the local Labour councillor pats him on the back.

"It's a drug," he says. "There is nothing like an election. I love it and when I stop loving it I will stop doing it."

"I don't have to do this. I could just keep writing books, but I don't think you should be a politician if you don't enjoy meeting people, although lots of them hate it."

Local party chairman Charles Barr-Sim says of Lord Archer: "I've learnt so much from him already, just following him around. I don't know what his secret is. I think he just likes meeting people. If I had him here for three weeks, we'd have the seat in the bag."

At the Conservative club in Galashiels four middle-aged ladies are stuffing envelopes. "Why don't you get out of the Lords, and become Prime Minister where you belong?" one of the ladies says, as Lord Archer beams. Not such a bad birthday after all.

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**Nameless**

LAST night Smith announced the first ABC broadcast. He identified himself humbly, "I am a new man," and his hair was combed back the French way. He wore a non-English suit, eyes peering through troubled tears.

His message: intervention. The last two years, he said, were

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# Ashdown meets the old to speak of the young

FROM the green fields of North Cornwall, flashes of orange and gold catch the eye. The gorse and the Liberal Democrat posters make a delightful show at this time of year. No other flowers, political or horticultural, seem to flourish, and the Liberal Democrat candidate, Paul Tyler, looks secure. But this did not prevent Paddy Ashdown dropping in on him yesterday, just in case.

Mr Ashdown was scheduled to press the flesh outside Bude's curiously crenellated town hall after lunch. Waiting for the occasion was a poster lorry displaying a huge billboard picturing three children and posing the question "Which party will spend more on education?" One boy wore a blue rosette, one a red rosette, and the rosette of the third was gold. The gold boy was smiling. The driver, flag end hanging from his lip, was scowling. The Liberal Democrat battle bus was late. Devon lanes are narrow, the bus a vast yellow double-decker. So Mr Ashdown went on ahead, with Mr Tyler, in a black Jaguar.

The theme of the afternoon was to be *Our Children's Future*.

Do you remember Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*? The press baron, Lord Copper, ready to present a journalist whom he supposes to be young with an award, has drafted his entire



Matthew Parris follows the Liberal leader as he presses the flesh in the safe territory of North Cornwall

speech on a single theme: "The opportunities of youth."

Lord Copper's heart sinks as the award winner appears. Just before the speech is to begin. The journalist is in his seventies. Thus must Mr Ashdown's heart have sunk as, emerging from his car to a backdrop of colourful posters about education, his few well chosen words about Liberal Democrat plans for the young memorised, he was confronted by his audience. They were a small crowd of very old ladies, sprinkled with a handful of very old gentlemen. White perms quivered in the breeze. Sticks tapped the grass, his heart sank. "Hiyah!" he exclaimed, for all the world overjoyed to see them.

But wait! There by the gate was a group of younger people — rather smart: the tweed cap and green wellie brigade. Paddy lurched towards them in relief. The relief was short-lived. They were a delegation from the British Field Sports Society,

come to tackle him on Lib Dem evasions over hunting.

But this is where Mr Ashdown shines. Unlike other opposition leaders, Mr Ashdown had not arranged for minders to assess the crowd in advance, identify the trained poodles, push away people with awkward questions and shepherd their man towards the poodles. Now, confronted with the awkward questions, he did not, unlike other opposition leaders, scamper away to the poodles. He listened to his critics, then gave as good an account of his party's policy (or lack of one) as he could muster. They listened to him politely and with growing respect. He left them impressed. Then he steered his older ladies — who had been joined, mercifully, by a single babe-in-arm — towards a boat repair yard, where others were waiting.

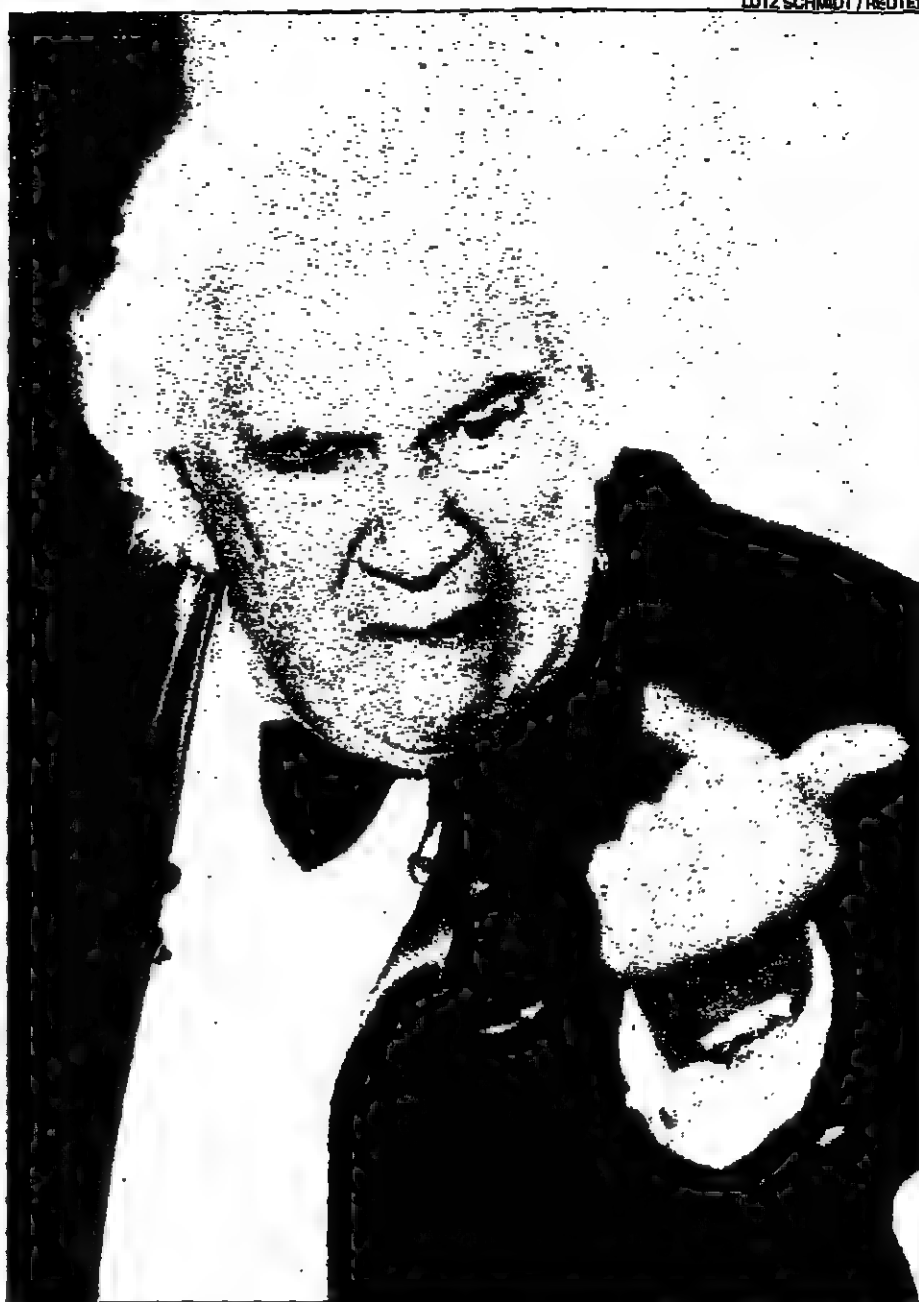
"What's wrong with this boat?" he breezed to a craftsman. "It sunk in a storm," the fellow replied. Mr Tyler looked worriedly at me, con-

scious of a sketchwriter's poisonous metaphor. But Mr Ashdown made a good, old-fashioned speech to his fans, during which Mr Tyler was spontaneously cheered when his leader mentioned his expertise on agriculture. Mr Ashdown posed with the baby, and departed. What with Mr Tyler's clipped 1950s Pathé News voice, the whole scene could have come from another political era.

Mr Ashdown's next encounter was better suited to his theme. He entered a children's adventure training centre and pulled on a rope designed to haul kids wearing crash helmets up a climbing frame. Journalists challenged him to don a helmet and give it a try. You could see the adventurer in Mr Ashdown straining to accept the challenge. Sadly, the politician in him, envisaging the captions should he fall, won the tussle. He stayed on the ground.

Then we watched more boys in crash helmets climbing up a wall. The Liberal Democrat leader was introduced to a would-be climber, "Good Luck, Brian!" he called as the boy began his ascent.

"Thanks," called the child. "And it's not Brian, it's Ryan." A boy who, half way up a vertical wall and clinging on for dear life, can correct the leader of a great political party as brusquely as Ryan did will go far.



Sir Peter Ustinov is taking an active part in the Lib Dem election campaign

## Ustinov pledges to play lead role

By Polly Newton

THE Liberal Democrats will wheel out backers from the world of entertainment this week in a show of support of the kind that is more usually associated with new Labour.

The parade begins today with a joint appearance in London by Paddy Ashdown and John Cleese, a well-known Lib Dem voter who has appeared in the party's election broadcasts.

A lifelong Labour voter, television comedian Barry Took, will tonight chair a Liberal Democrat debate in Bath. He said: "[Tony] Blair and his crowd are good but Charles Kennedy and Paddy Ashdown are part of a young, energetic party that is honest and caring. If I didn't live in Westminster and have to vote tactically to get those Conservative buggers out then I would definitely back them."

Tomorrow afternoon Sir Peter Ustinov, the actor, will appear alongside Baroness (Shirley) Williams to discuss political issues in front of an audience at Church House in London, where the Lib Dems hold their daily 8am press conferences. This is the first time that Sir Peter, a long-time supporter of the party, is taking such an active part in an election campaign.

## Nameless people's champion addresses nation from on high

LAST night Sir James Goldsmith addressed the nation in the first Referendum Party broadcast. It is a mark of his arrogance that nowhere was he identified. We were, presumably, expected to recognise his features: the balding head, the freckles burnt under a non-English sun, his wild eyes peering from under a troubled brow.

His message, unlike the intervention of Ross Perot in the last two US presidential races, was simple. As he put it:

### TV WATCH

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

"The real issue is whether Britain remains an independent and free nation or whether it becomes a province of an undemocratic European superstate." And the culprit is the same demon that Sir James has always been fighting, from his founding of the weekly magazine *Now!* to his legal assault upon *Private Eye*

— an unrepresentative clique who dominate the political class of Britain.

Who, he asks, are these people who lead us blindly into servitude? His answer: "the political, bureaucratic and media establishment". The whole world, it seems, is against Sir James and his rabble army, a chief under-

able being Edward Heath, who encouraged us to believe that the European adventure would not entail a surrender of Britain's sovereignty. The federal agenda of the Maastricht summit was not an issue in the 1992 election. And "secretly and without our consent our nation is disappearing into a European superstate with one parliament, one currency, one flag".

The Tories have cornered the market in paranoia so far, claiming in their first broad-

cast that Britain is on the edge of apocalypse with the arrival of a Blair government. But Goldsmith goes one further. Unless we vote Referendum down the river for ever, Parliament and the courts and the Bank of England will be gone. This is our last chance to smell the sweet scent of freedom. It is an eccentric, serious-minded attempt to appeal over the heads of the conventional parties to the romantic view of Britain's voters.

But Sir James, the fattest of fat cats, ennobled by Harold Wilson in his infamous "law-endorsing list", who lives mostly in France, is not the best spokesman for such a crusade. The Referendum Party therefore adopts an odd position: it appeals from on high to the British revolution at being directed from on high. The whiff of the international jet-set cocktail party which follows the Referendum Party, packed with friends of friends of Sir James, further diminish-

es its claim to be a grass-roots movement which speaks for the British people.

The Labour Party also made a patriotic appeal last night in its broadcast, introducing the now famous Fitz the Dog, a grumpy bulldog which is reluctant to be taken for a walk. After a few well chosen words from Tony Blair the dog rouses itself and is soon champing at the bit, eventually snapping its lead to set off in its own direction — across a dusty desert landscape to an

unknown horizon. This is undoubtedly Thatcher territory. The British bulldog, after years of being domesticated, will be let off its leash to roam the world, looking for a scrap. Labour, once the party of CND, has, like the subtitle of Stanley Kubrick's *Dr Strangelove*, learned to stop worrying and love the bomb. So the Tories are deprived of another unique selling proposition and Sir James is left wishing he had thought of a better mascot.

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No wrench for spanner in the Conservative works as she breaks consensus over single currency

# Voters are unmoved by Tory dame's Euro turn

DAME Angela Rumbold, a Conservative vice-chairman and the latest spanner in the Tory Euro-works, was busy performing the doctrinal splits over the euro yesterday. Not that her constituents noticed. Striding through the sunny streets of Mitcham and Morden, her seat for the past 15 years, Dame Angela, 65, was having it both ways. "I fully support the Government's position with regard to the single currency," she insisted in a formal statement. But there was a catch: "I cannot see myself supporting the erosion of sovereignty that would come from scrapping the pound."

This thinking had just handed a gift to the Opposition. Tony Blair ridiculed the disarray in Tory ranks. Paddy Ashdown said Dame Angela had signalled "the beginning of the break-up of the Conservative Party" because of her rank in the party machine and her job in charge of the candidate lists for the election. Emma Nicholson, a former Tory colleague now with the Lib Dems, called her "a loose cannon on the deck of a sinking ship".

Slightly intimidating in a pistachio-coloured suit that set off her short red hair, Dame Angela had only one word for such stuff as she marched up a suburban street: "Sheer nonsense —



Dame Angela Rumbold knew exactly what she was doing when she decided to thrust aside the Cabinet's wait-and-see Euro-policy, Charles Bremner writes

nonsense is the word that will do very well."

According to Dame Angela's entourage, the fuss was just media mischief, but there was no doubt that Dame Angela, a straight-speaker and possessor of a sharp mind, knew exactly what she was doing when she decided to thrust aside the veil of ambiguity with which the Cabinet has draped its Euro-policy and say clearly what many a Conservative believes. She wanted, she said, to answer the anxiety that voters voiced on the single currency when she knocked on doors.

Surely there was some contradiction with the Government's delicately ecumenical policy of wait-and-see? "I'm not going to say anything because if I say anything it's ridiculous," Dame Angela snapped as she marched ahead with her "important business".

This consisted of ringing on doorbells up and down Queen Mary Avenue, a quiet

street of modest semi-detached houses, much improved by a sea of cherry blossom. The Conservative is in danger of losing the seat, one of the most marginal, to Siobhain McDonagh, 36, a councillor.

Few constituents were around to take the mid-afternoon call from the Tory Dame, who was accompanied by Polly Postans, her daughter who is also her electoral agent, and Sophie, her granddaughter. Her only mistake, after receiving near universal promises of support, was to greet the same pair of old women twice. "But you've just spoken to us," one complained.

She met only one timid query about her European views. She explained that she wanted to safeguard Britain's sovereignty. Among the voters of Morden, there was little apparent interest in Dame Angela's shocking shift from wait-and-see over the euro and her part in what one

newspaper proclaimed yesterday to be the biggest battle for Britain's survival since Hitler was defeated.

Over in Morden, there was sympathy for the politician. "Poor old Dame Angela. She's just trying to hold on to her seat," said Kevin Fleming, proprietor of a Morden plumbing shop, referring to her majority of 1,734. Doing her shopping, Phyllis Sinden, 85, said Dame Angela "says all the right things. I think the Conservatives know how to handle the foreigners."

A protégée of Nicholas Ridley, who served in three junior ministerial posts, she has blotted her copybook before, notably in 1994 when she had to resign from a £12,000-a-year job with a lobbying firm and in 1995 when she acknowledged that she had failed to disclose a shareholding in an investment fund.

Made a Dame in 1992, she was put in charge of the Conservative candidate list in 1994, and proclaimed her aim to be purging the "identikit apparatchiks" which had dominated it and recruiting more women. However critics say her ambition has been signally unfulfilled. Emma Nicholson, sniped at her yesterday, saying her former colleague "is the woman who has stopped the advance of women candidates".



Dame Angela campaigning in her Mitcham and Morden constituency

## Major refused to join the Right

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR yesterday said he had resisted demands that the Tories should take a more right-wing or Eurosceptic stance in the election. He said: "People will have to accept me for what I am."

As increasing numbers of backbench MPs voice their opposition to Mr Major's "wait and see" policy on a single currency, the Prime Minister was asked whether a right-wing or Eurosceptic ticket might have proved more popular. "I have always been told over the last few years that if I was able to do this or able to do that, the world would turn on its head. But I am not prepared to turn on my head," he said.

Mr Major said that responsibility for the party's electoral fortunes rested with him. "I have set out my policy. It is what I believe in and people will have to accept me for what I believe, what I do and the way I do it, or reject me."

The prime minister said that he now felt able to return to his original objective, set out when he first became Tory leader, of achieving a "classless society". "It is perfectly true to say I feel liberated in that sense. I can now address the social agenda. That is what I have always cared about and lay behind what I said about a classless society."

He denied that recent speeches calling for greater help for the poor showed a sudden conversion. Yesterday he answered claims that he was searching desperately for centre-ground votes, saying that the Tory party had always believed in social change. He blamed the recession for preventing some of the social changes he had hoped to introduce.

"It has been very difficult to connect personally with the media and with the public as a whole upon those issues. But I think that it is now possible to do."

## Leaders vie for place as fishing industry's true defender

By MICHAEL HORNEBY

THE Government and the Opposition vied to outdo each other in support for the fishing industry and determination to stand up to Europe yesterday after Britain was forced to accept a decision to reduce catches by up to 30 per cent.

Ministers said the vote in Luxembourg was irrelevant because there was no question of implementing the reductions until British-registered, but foreign-owned trawlers, or "quota-hoppers", were banned

from catching British fish. On the hustings in Devon, John Major said he did not have "a shred of intention of cutting the British catch unless and until we have a satisfactory agreement on quota-hopping".

The Prime Minister was asked if a Tory government would be prepared to veto further constitutional changes in the European Union at the inter-governmental conference (IGC) in June if Britain did not get its way over quota-hoppers. "You can use the word veto," he said. "I am saying we will not reach an

agreement. There has to be an agreement by unanimity with every nation in the IGC."

Mr Major said the Luxembourg decision showed how "utterly wrong" Labour and the Liberal Democrats were to support an extension of qualified majority voting in the EU. "What happened today, which we will resist, could happen in a whole series of other areas if they scrap the veto" he said.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, on the campaign trail in Brighton, said: "This is yet another failure. First it

was beef, now fish. They talk tough but they get nothing done because they are hopelessly divided. A Labour government will get a better deal for the British fishing industry. In my view Mickey Mouse would get a better deal than this lot."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, claiming to be the only party leader to have been on a trawler, said: "The right way to approach all this is to scrap the common fisheries policy altogether and to deal with these issues with an urgent review of fisheries policy."

The Prime Minister has decided on bluster for the purposes of the election. We all know what will happen if he is re-elected — he will back down."

In Luxembourg Britain was outvoted by 13 votes to two, with only France on its side. The deal went through under the EU's qualified majority voting system, which is now used for much routine EU business.

Under the Luxembourg deal, it will be left up to individual members states to decide how to achieve

the catch cuts — 30 per cent for severely depleted stocks, such as cod and haddock, and 20 per cent for others under less pressure.

The reductions must be achieved within five years either by scrapping vessels, with the aid of grants, or by limiting the number of days during the year that boats can spend at sea, or by a combination of both.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, said the 160 foreign-owned fishing boats on the British register alone accounted for a quarter of the British fish catch.

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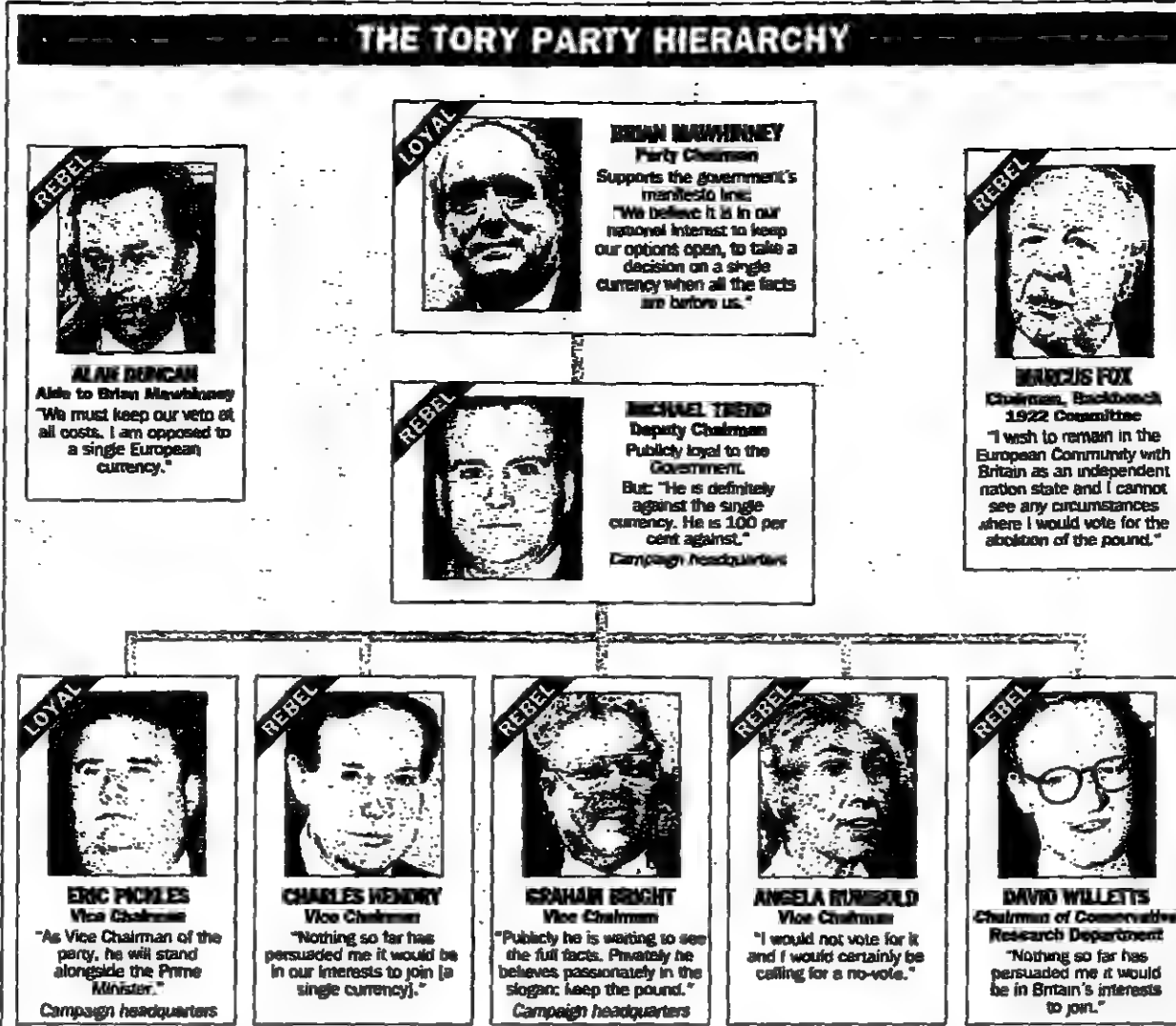


# What the Conservative rebels say on Europe

CONSERVATIVE candidates who have rebelled against the Government's "wait and see" policy on monetary union, according to information compiled by *The Times*. Some of the quotations below are from documents published by the Labour Party.

1 Jacques Arnold, Gravesham: "I am opposed to the Single European Currency."  
2 Felix Eddowes, Truro & St Austell: "I am against a single currency."  
3 Paul Barrett, Coventry North West: "I promise to vote against the scrapping of the pound."  
4 John Barrow, Basildon: "Whilst believing we should always negotiate to defend Britain's interests, I would expect to oppose a single currency in any referendum."  
5 Spencer Batiste, Elm: "I stand against Current Proposals for a Single Currency."  
6 Vivian Beadell, Ilford North: "I am against any move towards a single European currency."  
7 Richard Benyon, Newbury: "Richard Benyon... is opposed to a single currency."  
8 Bob Blackman, Bedford: "I am fundamentally opposed to the single currency, and I will oppose it in the Commons."  
9 Clive Blackwood, Egham: "In the next Parliament, I will vigorously oppose... any proposal to take Britain into a single European currency."  
10 Alan Blumenthal, Birmingham Northfield: "Alan Blumenthal will fight... to oppose monetary union." He originally told the BBC that he would support the "wait and see" policy.  
11 Sir Rhodes Boyson, Brent North: "I believe that a single currency would be a disaster for Britain."  
12 Graham Brady, Altrincham & Sale West: "I believe that a single currency would be bad for our economy and signal the end of Britain's independence as a nation."  
13 Angela Browning, Tiverton & Honiton: "Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture... one of the conditions already stated in the Treaty is that all countries which join must hand over their gold and foreign currency reserves to the Central Bank in Frankfurt. Once you do that, then interest rates will be determined in Europe. It follows that expenditure decisions will then be taken in Europe as well. This is the end of sovereignty of the nation state and if that is what is offered I will not support it."  
14 Adam Bruce, North East Fife: "I believe that the UK should not join a single currency in 1999. I do not believe that it would be in Britain's economic

interests to join a single currency at that time."  
15 Peter Bruinvels, The Wrekin: "I am opposed to the Single Currency."  
16 Les Byrom, Wirral South: "We should keep out of any single currency or Central bank unless it can be proved to be in Britain's interests and the present proposals are far, far short of that."  
17 Michael Carstairs, Great Yarmouth: "I shall not vote to abolish the British pound."  
18 Christopher Chope, Christchurch: "I will fight against the single currency."  
19 David Congdon, Croydon Central: "A single currency would be a disaster."  
20 Stephen Day, Cheadle: "I oppose Britain joining the single currency."  
21 Des Dover, Chorley: "Des Dover has repeated his opposition to a European single currency in the strongest possible terms. I support a European Common Market but would never vote for a single currency."  
22 Bob Dunn, Dartford: "I will not vote to abolish the pound."  
23 David Evans, Welwyn Hatfield: "Would you allow the pound to be scrapped for a single currency...?" [Evans replies: "No way"]  
24 Nigel Evans, Ribbles Valley (PPS to William Hague): "... my position on a single currency and closer ties with Europe is crystal clear. I am opposed to either."  
25 David Ewan, Bexleyheath & Crayford (PPS to Gillian Shepherd): "On national issues he has... stated publicly his opposition of a single European currency and monetary union."  
26 Stuart Fawcett, Islington North: "On the single currency I am opposed to it."  
27 Mark Field, Enfield North: "My personal view has always been in opposition to the United Kingdom joining a common currency."  
28 Jacqueline Foster, Peterborough: "Jacqueline Foster is wholly opposing... the abolition of the Pound Sterling."  
29 Mark Francois, Brent East: "Mark Francois, Conservative, believes in... keeping the pound as our currency."  
30 Christopher Fraser, Mid Dorset & North Poole: "I will speak up for you to safeguard our... currency."  
31 Murdoch Fraser, East Lothian: "I pledge that, if elected, I would not vote in favour of the abolition of the pound and Britain's entry into the European currency."  
32 Sir Peter Fry, Welwynborough: "I am firmly against a single currency and want to see powers handed back."  
33 Phil Galle, Ayr: "Personally, I see no circumstances under which I will support a common European Currency."  
34 Clare Gledhill, Don Valley: "I cannot foresee any circumstances when it would be in Britain's interests to vote to abolish the Pound."  
35 John Godfrey, Perth: "I see no advantage to this country giving up our pound sterling."  
36 Robert Gordon, Watford: "Opposes abolition of the pound."  
37 Teresa Gorman, Billericay: "I... will personally never vote to abolish the £."  
38 John Gregory, Stretford & Urmston: "I now to oppose a common currency."  
39 Sir Archie Hamilton, Epsom & Ewell: "If re-elected, I shall vote against monetary union and campaign against it in the referendum the Tories have promised."  
40 Nick Hawkins, Surrey Heath (PPS to Virginia Bottomley): "Our recent survey results have reinforced my own strong view that the people of Surrey Heath, by a huge majority, are against Britain joining a single currency - as I always have been."  
41 Jerry Hayes, Harlow: "Conservatives... want to keep our pound."  
42 Edmund Hayward, Carmarthen East & Dinefwr: "... the Foreign Secretary has said that he is hostile to the single currency. I strongly support these comments."  
43 Charles Hendry, High Peak



44 Charles Hendry, High Peak (Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party): "Nothing so far has persuaded me that it would be in our interests to join a single currency."  
45 Jason Hollands, Easington: "I would... oppose the abolition of the pound."  
46 Philip Hollis, Lewisham East: "Philip Hollis... would never vote for the abolition of the pound and would seek a full referendum on Britain's future role in Europe. [He] would vote for repatriation of powers from Brussels."  
47 Gerald Howarth, Aldershot: "The single currency is the ultimate surrender of sovereignty."  
48 John Hudson, Oldham East: "I cannot see any circumstances where I would support a single currency."  
49 Stuart Jackson, Brent South: "He would never vote for a British government to participate in creating a single European currency."  
50 Robert Kingston, Norwich South: "[I am] opposed to a single currency. I cannot see any economic advantages to it."  
51 Michael Leaver, Hackney North & Stoke Newington: "Mich-

ael Leaver does not support the surrender of the pound to a single European currency in principle."  
52 Edward Leigh, Gainsborough: "Under no circumstances will I support a single European currency."  
53 Barry Legg, Milton Keynes South West: "No to a single currency. Publicly also contains an article called 'Why I am against a single currency.'"  
54 Oliver Letwin, Dorset West: "No to the single currency. Yes to the repatriation of many of the powers that have already been ceded to Brussels."  
55 Julian Lewis, New Forest East: "I am the only candidate to promise never to vote for a single currency."  
56 Warwick Lightfoot, South East Cornwall: "Warwick is opposed to a single European currency."  
57 Sir Peter Lloyd, Fareham: "I should certainly in the next Parliament not join the single currency."  
58 Tim Loughton, East Worthing & Shoreham: "Tim... opposes the Single European Currency."  
59 Mark Loveday, Wigan: "I support a referendum on Britain's relationship with Europe. I am

against joining a single currency."  
60 Michael Loveridge, Crewe & Nantwich: "It is right for Britain to keep control over its own destiny and I oppose a European single currency... As your member of parliament I would vote against this."  
61 Paul McGuinness, Regent's Park & Kensington North: "In Parliament, Paul McGuinness is pledged to fight for Britain's interests in a Europe of nation states... saying 'No' to a single currency."  
62 Lady Olga Maitland, Sutton & Cheam: "No single currency in Europe."  
63 Owen Paterson, North Shropshire: "I would vote against a single currency."  
64 Jonathan Peacock, Wakefield: "I will also fight to protect Britain from... the idea of a European single currency."  
65 Mark Pridal, Wansley: "has pledged... to oppose the current plans for a single European currency. He says he will vote against any such measure in the House of Commons."  
66 John Redwood, Wokingham:

"I will not vote to abolish the pound."  
67 Marion Roe, Bracknell: "I oppose the single currency."  
68 Graham Riddick, Colne Valley: "I will do whatever I can to stop the abolition of the pound and its replacement by a single European currency."  
69 Laurence Robertson, Tewkesbury: "I have said I will vote against a single European currency. I would like to see a referendum on Britain's wider relationship with Europe and would like to repatriate powers to Britain."  
70 Dr Adrian Rogers, Exeter: "Adrian Rogers will never vote for a single currency."  
71 David Ruffley, Bury St Edmunds: "He is not persuaded that it is in the United Kingdom's interests to join a single currency."  
72 Dame Angela Rumbold, Mitcham & Morden (Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party): "I want to vote for it and I would certainly be calling for a no-vote."  
73 Tom Sackville, Bolton West (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health): "I do not believe that a single currency would be in Britain's best interests from either an economic or political point of view; neither now or for the foreseeable future."  
74 Jonathan Sayeed, Mid-Bedfordshire: "In the 1970s I voted to join a Common Market not for a single currency."  
75 David Senior, Luton North: "David Senior... has pledged to keep the Pound."  
76 Stephen Shakespeare, Colchester: "I believe that a single European currency would be bad for Britain."  
77 David Shaw, Dover: "I shall listen very carefully to all the arguments about the single currency and then I shall vote against it."  
78 Donald Stewart, Brigg and Goole: "I am totally against the single currency."  
79 Sir Peter Tappin, Louth & Horncastle: "I give you this pledge - I shall never vote to join a Single European Currency."  
80 Donald Thompson, Calder Valley: "Donald Thompson believes in a strong European trading area, but cannot foresee a single currency with Britain as a member."  
81 John Todman, Cheltenham: "I want to see the right to set our own agenda... That means 'no' to a single currency."  
82 Ian Twinn, Edmonton: "I am strongly opposed to the Single Currency. I will vote against a Single Currency in the referendum we have pledged in the House of Commons."  
83 Bill Wiggins, Bury: "I am opposed to a single currency."  
84 Michael Winstanley, Macclesfield: "I oppose a single currency and a federal Europe... I would support a referendum on Britain's future relationship with Europe."

85 Walter Sweeney, Vale of Glamorgan MP: "Walter Sweeney has consistently said YES to a free trade area, but NO to the Social Chapter. NO to a single currency."  
86 Glyn Davies, Montgomeryshire: "I will oppose the abolition of the British pound within the life of the next Parliament... I stand for a Europe of independent nations and will say 'No' to abolishing the British currency."  
87 Bill Cash, Stone: "I will not vote for a single currency or the Social Chapter."  
88 David Heathcoat-Amory, Wells: "He opposes further integration in the European Union and believes the Government should rule out joining a single European currency."  
89 Robert Symes, Poole: "I believe in the British controlling their own destiny and believe it's important to maintain sterling and will vote against any proposal for a single European currency in the next Parliament."  
90 Nigel Waterson, Eastbourne: "I am strongly against a federal Europe and would not want to see the pound abolished."  
91 Julian Brazier, Canterbury: "I will fight against the abolition of the pound and its absorption into a single currency."  
92 Jonathan Aitken, South Thanet: "I would hesitate for eternity before voting for the Single Currency and European Monetary Union."  
93 Nicholas Canbrook, Yeovil: "We must have a referendum if we intend any further integration. I am against the UK joining a single currency."  
94 David Cameron, Stafford: "When I was elected a year ago I said I would oppose a single currency. I will make that clear in my election address."  
95 Andrew Smith, Cynon Valley: "I am an implacable opponent of a single currency and would vote against any transfer of gold and bullion to Brussels. I believe in putting Britain before Brussels."  
96 Asle Bray, East Ham: "I would oppose a single currency and any further transfer of sovereignty to Brussels."  
97 Nick Gibb, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton: "Our main aim should be to regain political and legal power."  
98 Sir Marcus Fox, Shipley: "I cannot see any circumstances where I would vote for the abolition of the pound."  
99 David Porter, Waverley: "I totally oppose a single currency. The mark of a sovereign nation is to print its money."  
100 Neil Hamilton, Totton: "Opposed to a single currency."  
101 David Wiltshire, Spelthorne: "Has come out against a single currency."  
102 John Wilkinson, Ruislip Northwood: "Giving up the pound is unacceptable unless it is expressed by a referendum."

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# Troops run media gauntlet to take Albanian beaches

FROM TOM WALKER IN DURRES

THE Italian-led expedition to chaotic Albania began in earnest yesterday as more than 1,000 troops from France, Italy and Spain arrived by boat and aircraft.

Durres, the harbour town 20 miles west of Tirana, was the scene of media frenzy as networks from around the world clamoured for dawn images of Operation Alba — the latest international force attempting to bring peace to a slice of the Balkans.

Against a sunrise broken by banks of dark cloud, the French transport ship *Orage* was the first in a queue of naval vessels into harbour. Before her final approach, 80 French "Jaubert" combat Marines, taken by helicopter to Tirana on Sunday, made a sweep of the port after Italian media-led speculation of a guerrilla attack. As with much Italian media rumour during the Albanian crisis, it proved unfounded.

The *Orage* had to offload two landing barges, 20 more combat Marines and its two Super-Frolon helicopters before docking. But the biggest problem facing the 372 infantrymen and their more than 100 vehicles was the media scrum awaiting them; only to

desperate cries of "partez, partez, à gauche, à droite, s'il-vous-plait, messieurs," could disembarkation begin.

As *Orage's* six AMX wheeled tanks roared into port, the Italian transport ship *San Marco* dropped anchor alongside. The Italians attempted a contrasting approach, marching a small and surly contingent of their 200 troops straight at the media cordon, leading to an undignified tussle with a camera crew.

In biting cold conditions, most Albanians chose to stay at home, but two vanloads of police attempted to liaise with the international troops.

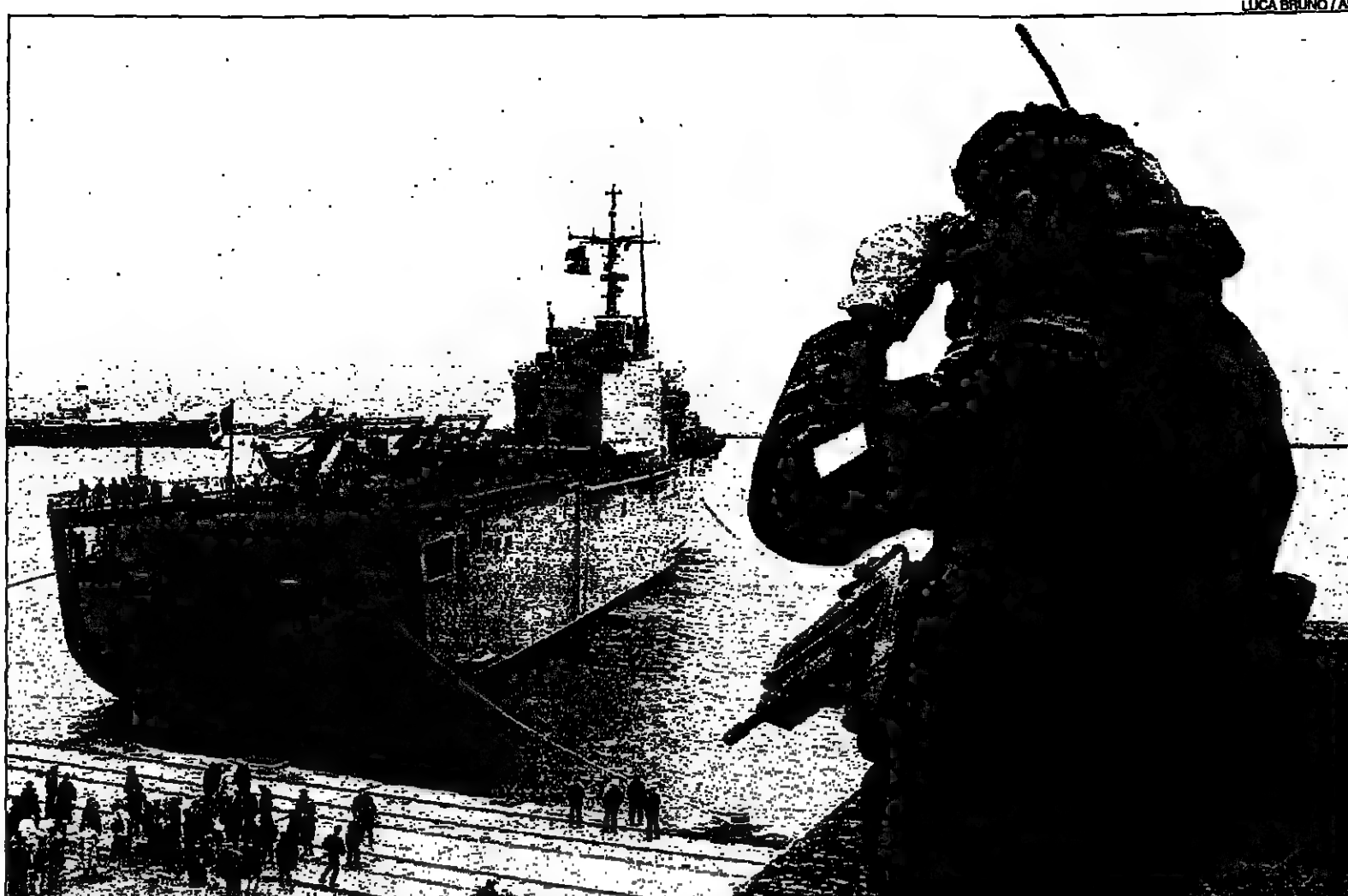
"We are here in solidarity with the Albanian people," said Lieutenant-Colonel Gérard Dubois, a French military spokesman. "We hope to

improve their life conditions." As for the troops' own quarters, he said: "We have no windows, no water and no electricity, but we are happy."

With most men and materials off the *Orage* by 8am, Durres had been virtually "secured" an hour later, the French taking positions around the harbour perimeter. Warehouses within are bare after the orgy of looting that gripped Albania last month, but observers were, nonetheless, relieved to see a substantial body of authority.

"There is no other solution for us," said Kujtim Shima, the driver of the port's battered fire engine — a gift from Britain — against the backdrop of gutted buildings.

While it is immediately apparent that little resistance to Operation Alba is likely, the troops seem reluctant to address the central problem affecting security in Albania — that most men are desperately poor, unemployed and often heavily armed. "We are under no instructions to take guns from people," said Major Hervé Gourmelon, spokesman for the French advance unit. "We are looking at the logic of perhaps buying back arms, but for the moment we

A French soldier watches as the Italian troop ship *San Marco*, part of the international Operation Alba, docks at Durres yesterday

are securing the environment of the port."

The Spanish transport ship *Hermin Cortes* was the third ship into Durres, landing 350 troops. By late afternoon most of the forces were either in their bases around the town, or at Tirana's Rinas airport, where military planes brought

in 150 Italian paratroops yesterday.

In Durres, French and Italian tricolours were ubiquitous, and dozens of French light-armoured vehicles, or "frogs", were a familiar sight. More ships will arrive in the coming days, including on Friday the French ferry *Napo-*

léon Bonaparte with 400 infantry, and the transport ships *Cap d'Afrique* and *Ariana* with more vehicles and supplies. Over the next six weeks a total of 6,000 troops will arrive — coming also from Greece, Turkey, Austria, Denmark and Romania. Their main task, to accompany aid con-

voys, will begin almost immediately. The United Nations' food arm, the World Food Programme, brought 400 tonnes of beans, wheat and oil into Durres yesterday. "We were destroying ourselves and I see the troops as a very positive sign," said Selami Dakoll, the town's

Deputy Mayor. "Thank God that we do not have the mentality that the foreigners are here to invade us." He thought an arms buy-back programme would not be justified, since most guns had been stolen. "The motive for people to give them back should be their conscience."

## French manoeuvre for bank chief job

PARIS has made a last-ditch attempt to install a Frenchman as head of the European central bank by promoting the cause of Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

According to German press reports, regarded as plausible, the French had proposed a trade in which Paris would support a German candidate for the leadership of the International Monetary Fund in return for the appointment of M Camdessus.

Bonn, however, seems set on the appointment of Wim Duisenberg, a Dutch central banker who has repeatedly declared his determination to make the European bank work according to monetary, rather than political, rhythms.

Mr Duisenberg is due to take over as head of the European Monetary Institute this summer, and all the likely major participants in a monetary union — apart from France — have been assuming that he will continue when the EMI becomes a fully fledged central bank, some time in the spring of 1998. The EMI will next year make one of the most decisive contributions about who will be allowed to join

Reports that Paris has offered to back a German leader for the IMF in exchange for Eurobank domination are causing friction, writes Roger Boyes in Bonn

economic and monetary union. Friction between Germany and France over the issue has been bubbling below the surface for over a year, with French bankers claiming a deal was struck when the EMI was sited in Frankfurt.

Germany, they say, agreed then that a Frenchman would govern the bank. Bonn officials say no arrangement was reached, and they are deeply suspicious about the notional candidacy of M Camdessus.

The managing directorship of the IMF is not in the field of the French. The appointment is usually given to a European (Frenchmen occupied the post between 1963-73 and 1978-87), while an American runs the World Bank. The French did not consult the Germans before prolonging the IMF mandate of M Camdessus and, according to one German official, "there is no earthly reason why the

French should regard the IMF as part of their nomenclature."

The Germans have always insisted that the European central bank should be governed by a candidate from a smaller European country, to demonstrate that Europe is



Camdessus: Germans deny agreement

not being run by the Franco-German axis. Underpinning these reservations, however, is a more fundamental disagreement between France and Germany over the aims of a European central bank and the degree to which it should be politically influenced.

For now, the EMI is sticking to its combined task of schoolmaster and pioneer. It demonstrated both roles yesterday in its annual report, urging yet more budgetary discipline on candidates for monetary union. The incumbent EMI chief, Alexandre Lamfalussy, conceded that there had been real progress in the fight against European inflation, in convergence of long-term interest rates and the stability of exchange rates. "But in many countries' budgetary policies are still very unsatisfactory," he said.

Despite all efforts, most countries failed to make the 3 per cent of gross domestic product public deficit target in 1996. The EMI, he said, was particularly concerned about "the manner in which budgets have been consolidated". In 1994 and 1995, budgets were balanced by spending cuts, but "in 1996 the emphasis

shifted away from reducing expenditure towards increasing income". He was also worried about the number of countries that were falling short of another Maastricht target: the total debt of 60 per cent of gross domestic product.

President Chirac, in an interview with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* yesterday, sought to play down the tensions between France and Germany. "Our vision of the world is identical, and that explains our vision of Europe," he said.

□ *Maastricht promise:* Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, emphasised that he would keep his promise to bring the German public-sector deficit down to within the Maastricht target. He was responding to a leak from the spring report of Germany's six economic research institutes which shows that Germany will miss the EMU goal and reach 3.2 per cent in 1997.

One of five economic advisers to the Government, Rolf Pfelekov, said the minister was being overly optimistic, and urged a delay in monetary union by between one and two years.

## Jailed Tapie exercises his outside right

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

BERNARD TAPIE, the former flamboyant businessman serving a jail sentence in France, yesterday regained a taste of freedom by taking a job as a salesman.

During the day he works for Secna, a boat-building firm in Marseilles, returning to his cell at night. Tapie's friends point out that all French prisoners sentenced to less than a year can benefit from what is known as the *semi-liberté* system. However, to win day release, they need to show they have a job, something that only 4 per cent of inmates are able to do, given the high unemployment rate.

Tapie is serving an eight-month sentence on match-rigging charges. Once the owner of Adidas, the chairman of Marseilles football club and the Minister for Urban Affairs under the late President Mitterrand, Tapie is known for his ruses. Media commentators say his new post could be the latest, giving him a few hours of freedom.

The job allows Tapie to call on his experience as the former owner of France's best-known pleasure craft, the yacht *Phoebe*. In the 1980s he spent Fr88 million (£7.5 million) on a refit.



Tapie, serving a prison sentence, leaves work yesterday in Marseilles before returning to jail

## US increases food aid to North Korea

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States last night increased by \$15 million (\$9.2 million) its food aid to North Korea as part of a delicate diplomatic bargain the Administration hopes will pave the way for a formal peace settlement on the Korean Peninsula.

Washington last night responded to a request by the United Nations World Food Programme for 200,000 tonnes of food aid for North Korea, a country reported to be in the grip of widespread famine. The new contribution, on the eve of critical talks in New York, brings the total of American food aid to \$33.4 million since late 1995.

American officials have insisted that there is no link between humanitarian assistance to the Communist regime and efforts to start four-party talks between the Koreans, the United States and China. Without the promise of new stocks, North Korea said it would not consider any deal to take part in the talks, designed to turn the 43-year-

old armistice on the divided peninsula into a permanent accord.

Pyeongyang is to deliver its reply to the talks proposal in New York today. Earlier in the week the North Koreans accused the United States of working "hand in glove" with Japan and South Korea, and threatened to pull out of a 1994 agreement under which Pyongyang promised to stop its nuclear power programme.

The State Department, which has already accused Pyongyang of selling Scuds to Iran, has expressed concern about Japanese newspaper reports that North Korea is preparing to deploy long-range Rodong 1 missiles.

□ *Tokyo:* North Korea yesterday commemorated the late President Kim Il Sung's 85th birthday by spending \$120 million on a mausoleum and monument, according to South Korea's official press agency (Robert Whymant writes). Celebrations were staged to honour the former "Great Leader".

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# Jailed banker is 'sick and tired of lying for Clintons'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE day after Jim McDougal was said by prosecutors to have provided substantial new evidence against the Clintons, their former Whitewater partner last night said he was "sick and tired of lying for the President."

McDougal, who received a three-year sentence on Monday instead of the maximum 84 years, said he had decided to co-operate with Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special counsel, in part because President Clinton had failed to pardon his jailed former wife, Susan.

"I wasn't so much concerned that he'd abandoned me. I felt he'd abandoned Susan," said McDougal, who has claimed Mr Clinton once had an affair with his wife. "I just got sick and tired of lying for the fellow, you know."

In a nationally televised interview with NBC last night, McDougal hinted that he had given the inquiry information that could implicate both Bill and Hillary Clinton.

"I think they should be deeply concerned," McDougal said. "I think the Clintons are really sort of like tornadoes moving through people's lives and just one of the people left in the wake of their passing."

He is believed to have reversed his original testimony to corroborate evidence given by David Hale, another Little Rock banker, that when he was Governor of Arkansas Mr Clinton was involved in soliciting an illegal loan of

\$300,000 (£185,000) for Mrs McDougal.

The President has denied under oath that he was present at a meeting in 1986 when the loan was discussed. Mrs McDougal, refusing to testify against the Clintons last year, chose instead to be jailed for contempt of court.

In arguing for a lenient sentence for McDougal, who was convicted last May on 18 counts of fraud and conspiracy involving Whitewater, Mr Starr has supported his new account. The prosecutor said the former owner of Madison Guaranty, the bank at the centre of the Whitewater scandal, had provided documents, witnesses and information previously unknown to the investigation.

The latest development has given new impetus to the inquiry and led Mr Starr to

admit that the paper trail now involved his original mandate: an order that covers only three people, Jim McDougal, the President and the First Lady.

Last night's interview marked the end of a flurry of disclosures by the White House, the Democratic National Committee and, amid Republican calls for her resignation, the rejection by Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, of demands for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate irregular fundraising by the Democrats.

The revelations were designed, in one damaging day, to combat a growing tide of negative publicity that has paralysed the President's efforts to negotiate substantive policy. The committee released 10,000 fundraising documents, including a memorandum to the White House listing big donors to be considered for senior posts and ambassadorships.

The White House also published a list of 56 contributors, including Jackie Onassis's former partner, Maurice Templesman, who have flown on on Air Force One in the past two years and a handful of others invited to the presidential retreat of Camp David in return for contributions to Mr Clinton's re-election fund.

However, attempts to dilute the renewed Whitewater revelations were unsuccessful. Among those included in the manifest of the presidential aircraft were three Democrats who had flown with the President and had paid large sums to Webster Hubbell, the convicted former Associate Attorney-General forced to resign from the Administration over his involvement in the failed Arkansas land deal.

Ersine Bowles, the White House Chief of Staff, was in Little Rock yesterday giving evidence before a grand jury about a further controversy: whether he and other Clinton aides had tried to steer "hush money" to Mr Hubbell as a reward for his silence over Whitewater and subsequent 21-month prison sentence.

Brown Maddox, page 22



Bowles giving evidence in Little Rock yesterday

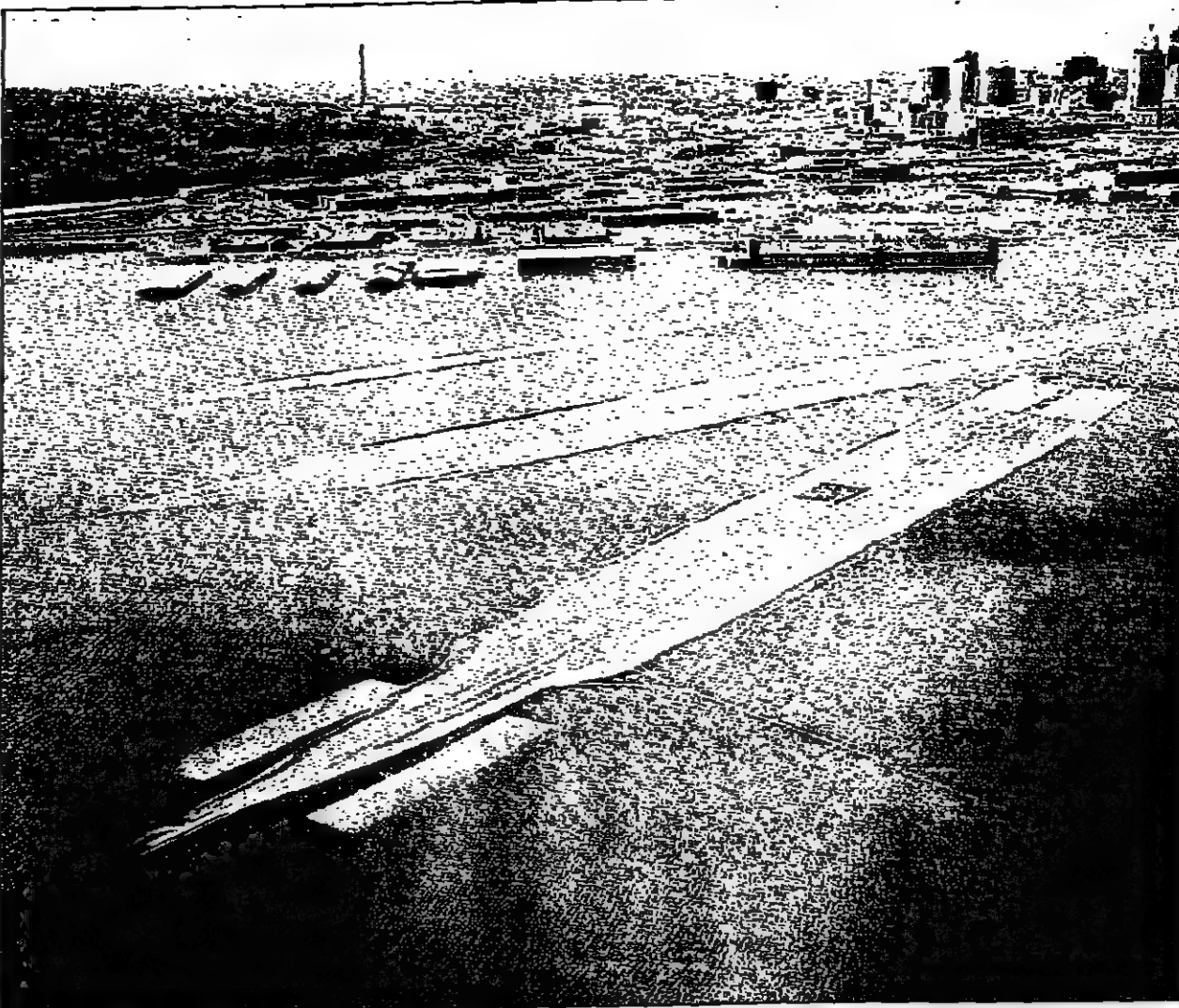
## Harriman successor

Washington: President Clinton has selected Felix Rohatyn, an urbane investment banker, to succeed Pamela Harriman as US Ambassador to Paris (Tom Rhodes writes).

Speculation has long surrounded Mr Rohatyn, 68, a senior partner at Lazard Frères in New York and a big campaign donor to the Democratic Party. He was considered a possible candidate to replace Admiral William Crowe, the US Ambassador to London, but in recent weeks

became the firm favourite to succeed Winston Churchill's famous daughter-in-law, who died in February while swimming at the Ritz in Paris.

Mr Clinton has 14 vacancies for ambassadors, including Germany, Canada, Russia, and Japan, and Mr Crowe leaves London later this year. James Collins, a State Department adviser on former Soviet nations, is expected to go to Moscow, and Tom Foley, the former Speaker, may be sent to Tokyo.



Runways at Holman Field outside St Paul, Minnesota, become islands as the Mississippi river floods surrounding land. Nearby the Army Corps of Engineers

## Islands in the flood

released more water from a brimming reservoir on the Minnesota-South Dakota state line, adding 6in to the swollen Red River and threatening an area about 45

miles south of Fargo already devastated by melted-snow floods. In the North Dakota city, the river passed 37.88ft — its highest point this century — yesterday. (AP)

## Report attacks FBI for forensic errors

BY TOM RHODES

THE FBI crime laboratory, central to forensic evidence in the World Trade Centre and Oklahoma City bombings, made serious errors in both cases, an 18-month Washington investigation revealed yesterday.

A report by Michael Bromwich, an inspector-general from the Justice Department, recommended the removal of at least two department heads at the laboratory. But it failed to substantiate claims by Frederic Whitehurst, a forensic scientist, that technicians had perjured and fabricated evidence.

The document nevertheless detailed mistakes, including scientifically flawed and inaccurate testimony and insuffi-

cient documentation. It raised questions about why Louis Freeh, the FBI Director, had failed to address concerns about the laboratory when they were first raised publicly by Mr Whitehurst in 1994. The inspector said the agency had failed to confront the problems even earlier.

Mr Bromwich singled out FBI officials involved in the Oklahoma bombing in April 1995, America's worst act of terrorism, which killed 168 people. In what is certain to be used as evidence by the defence in the current Denver trial of Timothy McVeigh, the chief suspect, the inspector said the forensic team merited "special censure" for its reliance on unscientific and speculative evidence about the explosive used. The Justice Department also documented "serious and significant deficiencies" in the World Trade Centre investigation.

In response, the FBI said it agreed with most of the recommendations. Bill Espinoza, the FBI Deputy Director, admitted "there was a clear and serious failing in not adequately detecting these problems and ... moving swiftly enough to resolve them".

## Duchess sprinkles sugar on her prose

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN newspaper editors were yesterday offered their first look at a new weekly column co-written by the Duchess of York with an experienced biographer, Jeff Coplan.

The Duchess, still short of money despite her energetic promotional engagements, is being paid about \$100,000 (£67,000) a year by the syndication department of *The New York Times* to lend her name to the column. In yesterday's first article she offered sorrowful memories — in places a little sugary — of Hector Barrantes, her late stepfather, and his Argentine burial.

On a recent trip to his grave, the Duchess "talked to Hector again, with just the crickets and aspens to answer back. I missed him more tragically than I ever had before".

Under the routine syndication arrangements, localised editing of the column, which is offered to provincial papers across the United States, is prevented. One suspects most self-respecting sub-editors remain importuned upon me. They lent colour to my pale teenage life." Argentina, she said, is "my second home" where "a part of me — perhaps the best part — resides".

the fecund flora and fauna of the South American landscape. She wrote: "A spate of rain cleansed the air" — the word "cleansed" might have sufficed — "and painted the land the hue of a billiard table. I could see for miles. Ostriches and armadillos and wild horses. I listened to the crickets and the silken breeze through the trees." Cleansing and painting? A mixed metaphor, perhaps, and "hue" is never as good as "colour". Breezes may be silken in teenage essays, but in newspapers they can blow without the adjective.

Yet these, arguably, are mere quibbles, and in many respects the Duchess writes more prettily than her rivals in the American syndication market. The column deserves a better take-up than the handful of titles which have so far accepted it. Her self-analysis is well suited to the readership. Recounting her trips to South America, the Duchess wrote: "My visits to Argentina, to its endless acres of Van Gogh sunflowers, remain imported upon me. They lent colour to my pale teenage life." Argentina, she said, is "my second home" where "a part of me — perhaps the best part — resides".

## Clerides rebukes protesters

Nicosia: President Clerides of Cyprus yesterday condemned violent protests at a British military base when Greek Cypriot villagers stormed a police compound and freed two detainees (Michael Theodorou writes). He said their actions could damage relations with Britain when Cyprus needed London's support to enter the European Union and solve the long-running Cyprus problem.

The trouble started when British bases police arrested a Cypriot for alleged assault.

## Clyde's death shirt sold

San Francisco: A Nevada casino paid \$35,000 (£53,125), double the estimated price, for the bullet-holed, bloodstained shirt worn by outlaw Clyde Barrow when he and his girlfriend, Bonnie Parker, were ambushed and shot dead. Barrow's belongings from his bank-robbing days with Parker, netted \$187,809. More than half will go to Marie Barrow, the outlaw's only surviving sibling. (AP)

## Smoking law backfires

Toronto: Faced with widespread defiance by smokers and complaints from businessmen, Toronto's city council has scrapped a five-week-old bylaw that broke new ground in Canada by banning smoking in virtually all bars and restaurants. A new measure allows restaurants and bars to set aside a small area for smokers. (AP)

## Poll challenge to Iran's men

Tehran: The daughter of a late religious leader is to be the first woman in Iran to run for the presidency, the newspaper *Iran* reported. Azam Taleqani, who is in her fifties, is head of the Islamic Women's Society and a campaigner for women's rights. Iran's clerical leadership is wholly male. (AP)

## Patience wins \$12m reward

Las Vegas: Suzanne Henley, who waited for more than an hour to play her lucky casino slot machine, won a world-record \$12.5 million (£7.7 million). A man playing the machine offered to step aside for \$20, but Mrs Henley, of Las Vegas, was patient. (AP)



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## Punctual President handicapped by golf

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MANILA

THE golfing victory of Tiger Woods in the US Masters led to President Ramos arriving late for the launch of a Philippines "punctuality week".

Mr Ramos, an avid golfer and fan of Woods, reportedly woke up at 4am to watch Woods live on television. But he went back to sleep after the game and overslept, the *Manila Times* reported.

He arrived an hour late for the 10am ceremony to launch the "punctuality week". Mr

Ramos has declared April 12-18 "National Consciousness Week of the Imperative for Punctuality and Respect for the Rights of Others".

Foreigners and locals who have grown up overseas complain that Filipinos regularly arrive for appointments an hour or more late. Woods, 21, made golfing history by being the youngest champion and the first black to win the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, with the widest victory margin.

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# Christian rebels threaten to overrun Sudan's battered conscript army

FROM JAMES HOOPER  
IN YEI, SUDAN

AS THE war in Sudan enters its fourteenth year, the Sudan People's Liberation Army looks poised to capture the southern capital, Juba.

If Juba falls, the racist and religious conflict between the Islamic north and the black Christian south will be at a turning point. The SPLA would then be able to shift more men and equipment to other fronts where government forces are battered and demoralised. With three simultaneous and widely separated fronts to defend, Khartoum has spread its



army and equipment so thinly that there is a risk of being overrun.

Though its roots lie in the

pre-colonial Arab slave trade, the rebellion really started in the 1950s, when disaffected southerners formed the Anyanya guerrilla movement to fight for political equality. A peace agreement was reached in 1972, but a decade later the imposition of Sharia (Islamic law) saw thousands of Nilotic tribesmen join the new SPLA. Since then the SPLA has enjoyed and lost the support of Ethiopia under the now deposed Mengistu Haile Mariam, been given by internal dissent, won and lost battles against the Sudanese

army, and has regularly been written off by Africa-watchers. Experts who solemnly predicted its demise over the years have been as surprised as Khartoum by the recent rebel successes.

In October last year the National Democratic Alliance, an unlikely grouping of the SPLA and Muslim opposition parties ousted by the military coup of General Omar al-Bashir in 1989, launched an offensive towards Damazine in the east, followed by a second offensive in the north, which threatened crucial rail and road links to Port Sudan.

The National Islamic Front Government, desperate to prevent the capture of Damazine and the hydro-electric dam supplying 80 per cent of Khartoum's power, began conscripting university and secondary school students.

One prisoner of war, Yasir Sheikh Idris Agh, 18, from Khartoum, said that after being press-ganged from school he received 15 days' training, much of it on his sacred duty to the jihad, or holy war. Each of his class was given a tightly folded page of the Koran encased in plastic, and a key, the first as a talisman against infidel bullets and the second, to unlock

the gates of heaven in the event the first failed.

The Sudanese Army is clearly inadequate to its task of defeating the SPLA. Since the Islamic Front seized power, much of the army's professional officer corps has been replaced by Muslim fundamentalists with more faith in theology than tactics.

On March 9, after eight months' planning and intensive training of 15,000 new recruits, the SPLA opened a third major front in the south with an attack on Kaya, a strategic garrison near the Ugandan border. Within three days the SPLA had advanced almost 60 miles,

killing or capturing more than 3,000 government soldiers and taking thousands of tonnes of ammunition and equipment.

Yet, the second largest town in the south, fell to the SPLA as the rebel forces continued their advance towards Juba. To the east, the government base at Kajo Kaji on the Nile was overrun and a second SPLA axis aimed northward. The sole attempt at a counter-attack by government forces was defeated 40 miles south of Juba.

A week later the SPLA destroyed a government bridge at Jambou Corner, seizing more than 30 abandoned

tanks, and began advancing on Juba from the west. As the SPLA closes the net around Juba, aid organisations are evacuating their personnel while outlying army garrisons are withdrawing into defensive positions, hoping for relief from Khartoum.

It may soon be a forlorn hope. The one land route from the north, a deeply rutted laterite road, may already have been cut.

With victory within its grasp, the SPLA, knowing that the bulk of any available food will be used to sustain the army, is likely to ignore United Nations demands for emergency relief flights.

## Yeltsin shrugs off Duma to give Kohl looted work of art

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin is today expected to make a dramatic gesture of reconciliation with Germany when he returns to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, a token work of art from the huge collection looted from Germany in 1945.

In the face of furious opposition from Russian parliamentarians and art lovers, the Russian leader will make a small but symbolic step towards resolving a sensitive issue in relations with Germany when he meets Herr Kohl in the German resort of Baden-Baden.

The disputed treasures consist of about 200,000 works of art, from French Impressionist masterpieces to the Schliemann collection of gold artefacts from ancient Troy. The works were seized by Soviet forces in the final days of the Second World War and their whereabouts were kept secret until they were revealed in a series of stunning exhibitions at Moscow's Pushkin Museum and the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

While the gift of one work will not resolve the problem, it sets an important precedent and will give hope to German art galleries and private collectors that they might one day get the treasures back.

The daily Nezzvismaya

Gazeta newspaper reported yesterday that the Russian leader had drawn up a secret decree which envisaged handing back all the looted treasures. However, any conciliatory move will reignite the heated debate in Russia, where a large part of the population believes the works should be kept as restitution for the destruction of Russian culture during the Second World War.

The Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, is due today to vote on a Bill proposed by the Duma, the lower house, calling for the trophy art to remain in Russia. If the Federation Council approves the Bill, Mr Yeltsin will have to pass it into law within seven days or refer it to the Constitutional Court.

Irina Antonova, the director of the Pushkin Museum and a strident advocate of keeping the art treasures, said yesterday that Mr Yeltsin's opposition to the new law was the result of "insufficient and inaccurate information".

"The Bill recognises that the displaced valuables that have been in Russia's keeping for 52 years are the property of the Russian Federation," she said. "I am convinced that Russia does not owe anybody anything."

Whatever the moral and historical arguments, the destiny of the artworks seems once again to be dictated by political considerations. Mr Yeltsin's unexpected gift is due partly to his long and close friendship with Herr Kohl, but it is also motivated by the fact that Russia needs all the friends it can get in the West.

After the Helsinki summit last month between the Russian leader and President Clinton, the Kremlin was left in little doubt that its influence over Washington policymakers and its prestige internationally is waning. The summit ended with the two sides "agreeing to disagree" over plans by Nato to extend its membership to former Warsaw Pact nations. Russia has given its tacit approval to expansion so long as its security concerns are enshrined in a charter with Nato.

However, the details of the charter are still proving a problem. Yesterday Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, failed to resolve the terms of the deal when he met Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General.

For Mr Yeltsin the support of Herr Kohl at this critical time could well be worth the price of a masterpiece from Russia's huge collection.



A Rwandan child is measured at a camp near the rebel-held town of Kisangani yesterday. The refugees are to be flown back home soon.

## Kinshasa paralysed for second day amid farce and danger

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

ZAIRE'S capital was paralysed for a second day yesterday by strikes and a failed "motorised march" planned by opposition leaders who spread a layer of absurdity over a dangerously volatile Kinshasa.

Mazanga Mazanga, lying on a plank outside the home of Etienne Tshisekedi, one of the opposition leaders, explained that the anti-Mobutu procession of vehicles had been crippled by the absence of cars on the streets to steal for the event.

"It was handicapped. No one is driving in the city because they don't want their cars to get stolen," said the "president" of a local cell in the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, Zaire's main civilian opposition party. "But the city is dead anyway," he added.

On the second day of protests organised by the Union's leader, Mr Tshisekedi, students and schoolchildren boycotted their classes in Kinshasa. Most businesses remained closed in fear that a public demonstration against President Mobutu Sese Seko would spark a violent crackdown by police and soldiers which could spread into violent anarchy.

Apparently without irony, the Union sprinkled leaflets all over the capital on Monday, saying cars would be "commandeered" by striking students for the "drive against Mr Mobutu" and that their owners should ensure their tanks were filled with petrol before they were taken.

Mr Mazanga seemed surprised but philosophical that motorists who did venture out kept well away from Kinshasa's universities and colleges. "The motorised march was only

supposed to be for the young anyway," he sighed. Mr Tshisekedi, who claims the title of Prime Minister but who has no Government, was yesterday "working in his office". And "so is his Cabinet," said Mr Mazanga.

Zaire has another Prime Minister, General Likulia Balongo, who was appointed last week by President Mobutu. Even Mr Mazanga admitted that Mr Tshisekedi was a "Prime Minister without function".

Although a politician who has a well-earned reputation for sleeping through crises and failing to harness the tides of Zaire's recent history, Mr Tshisekedi has managed to focus the desire of Kinshasa's five million population on getting rid of their President after 32 years and is likely to remain an important player in a post-Mobutu regime.

More than half the rest of the vast country, including all major cities in the interior, which generate at least 90 per cent of Zaire's national income, is now in the hands of the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila.

He received a tumultuous welcome in Lubumbashi, Zaire's second largest city. But some people were anxious yesterday that his Tutsi officers, many originally from Uganda and Rwanda, should not take government positions, and insisted the rebels should hold local elections as they had in Kisangani.

Tshisekedi may be a bit of a joke, but he is at least purely Zairean. He will be a significant factor in the future of the country. We do not want to be ruled by Rwandans and Tutsis; we hate them," said a senior businessman in the capital.

## Tug-of-war over Bonn's six-tonne doughnuts

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

A HUGE Henry Moore sculpture is in the middle of a fierce tug-of-war between Bonn and Berlin as the Germans prepare to shift their political capital.

Large Two Forms, which weighs

around six tonnes, squats outside Helmut Kohl's Chancellery and is supposed to give some international glam-

our to the dull and dark aluminium offices in Bonn. Berliners are insisting that the sculpture be transported to the new Chancellery, but the citizens of Bonn want to keep it in place. Herr Kohl has not, as yet, expressed an opinion. The sculpture was acquired in 1979 by Helmut Schmidt who, unable to find suitable German sculptor, travelled to Much Hadham in Hertfordshire to look up Henry Moore. The DMS00,000

(£180,000) bronze work is one of three — the others are in New York and Toronto — and vaguely resembles massive metallic half-eaten doughnuts.

It has become a symbol not so much of Herr Schmidt's aesthetic leanings as of his successor's physical bulk. Whenever a politician of generous dimensions visits Herr Kohl, such as President Yeltsin who is due in Germany this week, there are jokes about the "Large Two Forms".

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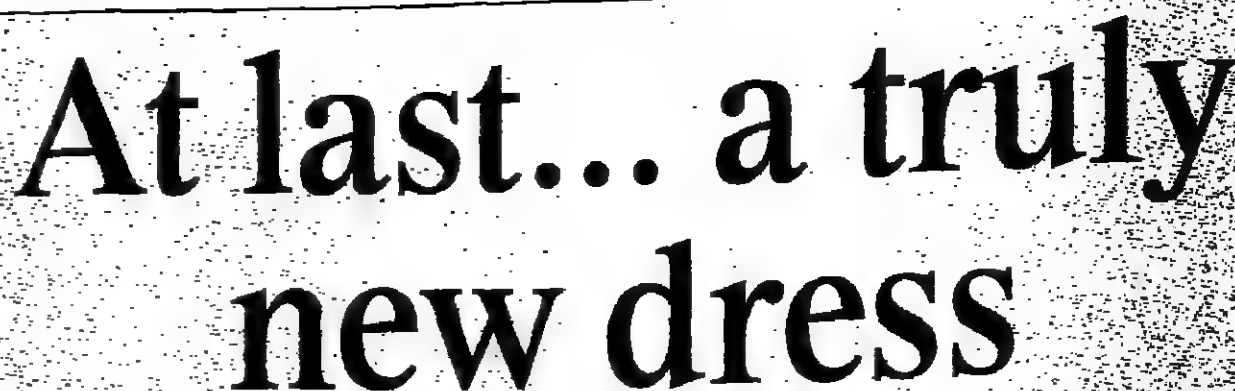
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The recent fashion shows failed to provide any startlingly modern ideas. Now, at last, the designer Junya Watanabe, who started his own collection for Comme des Garçons five years ago, has come up with a really original dress, says Style Editor **Grace Bradberry**



**LEFT:** Mandarin collar apron, 1925 by Junya Watanabe for Comme des Garçons; Diagonal pleat trousers, 1908 by Issey Miyake. Both at Liberty. **ABOVE LEFT:** Dress, 1945 by Yohji Yamamoto at Liberty. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Embroidered pants, 1999 by Junya Watanabe for Comme des Garçons at Liberty. Wooden clogs, 196 from Russell & Bromley

Photographer: JULIAN MARSHALL. Stylist: Deborah Brett. Hair: Martyn Gayle for Martyn Gayle Hairdressing, London W1. 0171-792 5656. Make-up: Helen Bammon. Model: Natasha Clancy (Select)

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## JANE SHILLING GETS DRESSED

The exhilaration lasts all the way to the bus stop. The repentance is awful. You drive your husband, your mother and your best friend into a collective coma of boredom with your plaintive promises never, ever to go shopping again. It is time you got a grip. The solution is simple. Always shop alone. Never apologise, and never explain.

The only thing worse is going shopping with one's husband. In the first flush of love, everyone thinks what a good idea it would be to take him along to give one the benefit of his opinion. If you are very lucky, he is merely bored to tears and spends the whole time checking out the beautiful shop assistants and

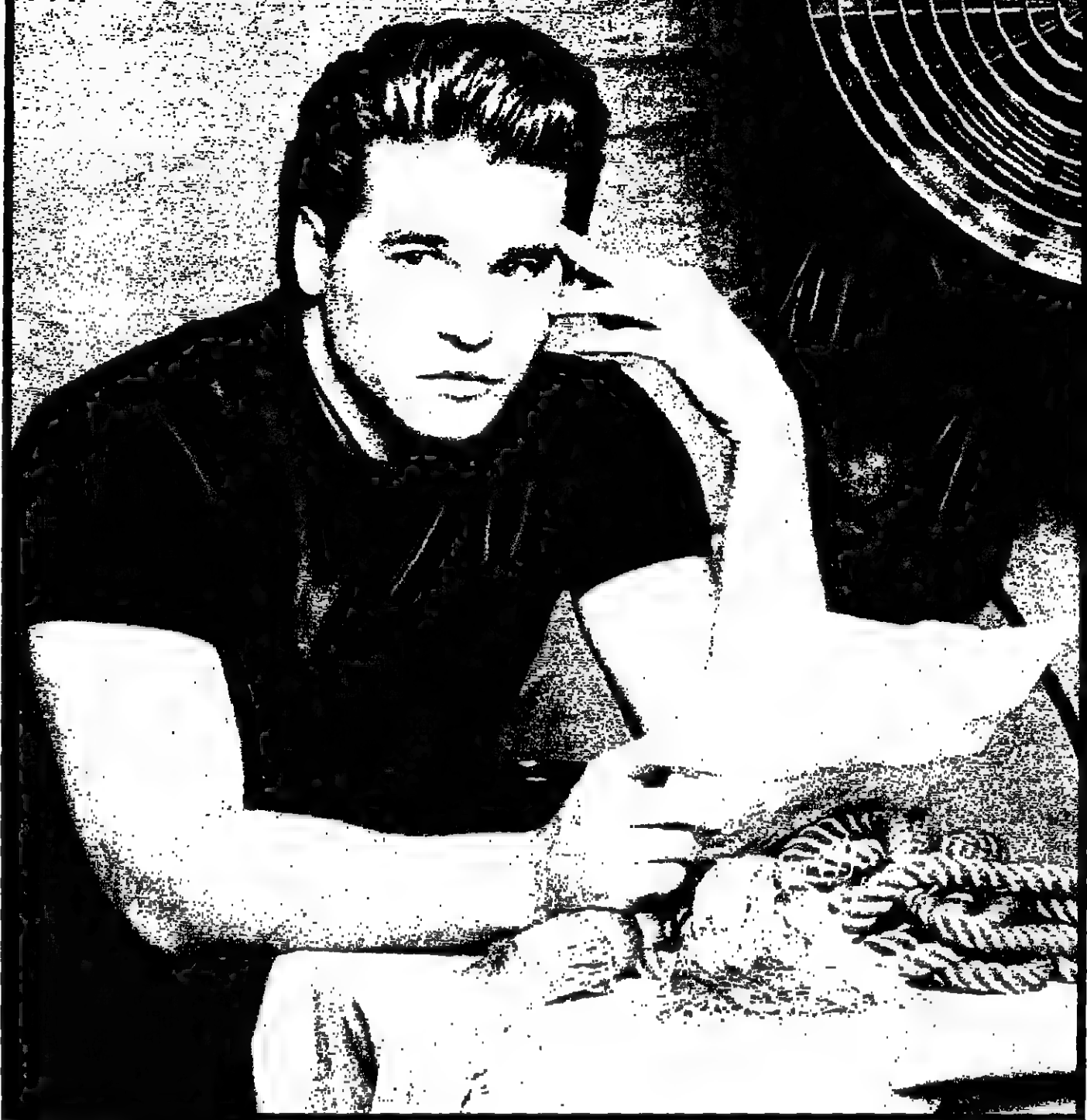


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# Saint or sinner?



Mystical: "My parents used to take us to the desert so that we would have more sense of ourselves and embrace nature," says Val Kilmer

Deciphering psychobabble is usually Noreen Taylor's forte, but an interview with Val Kilmer, the new Simon Templar, leaves her bemused

Listen to Val Kilmer for a couple of minutes and you crave the simple joys of a party political broadcast. Any party. Any broadcast. Here's Val on his upbringing: "A spirited foundation that gave me a notion. The US is rooted in expansionism, moral precepts that are active."

Perhaps he is a little more articulate about feelings. What makes you angry, Val? A long, sombre silence follows. After a moment, I prompt him. Injustice maybe?

"Huh, sure... though very encouraged recently by people trying to move forward when it comes to basic prejudices."

The personal pronoun is not the only thing missing from his sentences. Sense also takes flight. In his latest film, *The Saint*, he risks his life to save a woman. Would he do the same in the real world? "Wouldn't be able to live with self if you didn't. There are elements of nature rather than a sense of well-being. Man's greatest downfall is when he places himself above life and people who live close to life don't."

Though I am adept at deciphering the psychobabble employed by so many American stars, Val's paucity of words is not. He was in London to promote *The Saint*, the latest revival of Leslie Charteris's elegant English hero, Simon Templar. Never mind that Val bears not even a whiff of a resemblance to the debonair

persona of the Charteris novels: think instead of Arnie or Sly with computer toys.

I avoid offering this frank appraisal since Val has a reputation for being difficult. The film industry buzzes with colleagues' complaints about his arrogance and high-handed behaviour.

Joel Schumacher, director of *Batman Forever*, described him as "the most psychologically disturbed human being I have ever worked with."

John Frankenheimer, director of *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, confided: "I will never climb Mount Everest and I will never work with Val Kilmer again. There isn't enough money in the world."

Until he opens his mouth, Kilmer is truly impressive. He has a row of shining teeth and smiles like one of those pre-war cowboy stars. He is also deeply handsome.

Dressed in jeans and an open-necked shirt, he stands as I enter the room at the Dorchester offering me water and a cigarette. But I am wading in treacle the moment I ask a question. He continues to smile as I mention the gossip that labels him difficult.

"Abstract alleyways," he says. "Those are lies based on flattery. I work hard. One of those people was a director I turned down twice. A personal thing, you can figure that. The business community knows what happened. Audiences aren't affected." I tell him of

another story, which is surely too daft to be true. One of his people supposedly phoned a theatrical costumier to make an appointment for him and informed the assistant that Mr Kilmer would be fitted only by a girl who is size eight.

"Doesn't sound familiar," he says. "I have had the good fortune to have the same dresser in all of my movies."

And there are those who claim that Americans have no sense of irony? Why has he made comparatively few films? "In relation to my contemporaries, I have made few films. Unlike people such as Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise. Tom has made some courageous choices. He has power over what he can do."

I gently remind him that what I want to know is why. It transpires that it was due to a promise he made to his former wife, British actress Joanne Whalley, mother of his two children. "I realised it was very hard to be a foreign actress in the US. She wanted to work and we discussed this in detail before we married. If she worked, I wouldn't."

The couple's eight-year marriage ended last February. He says that their two children — Mercedes, five, and Jack, two — are "what makes me happy. Love is large compared to the everyday things in life."

Both children live in Los Angeles with their mother.

"They are two unique little people. My daughter is very confident about what she's interested in doing," he says. "She's not spoilt like a lot of Hollywood kids."

He has claimed that theirs was the second most expensive divorce in New Mexico. Property division was not without its entanglements, either: Val claimed that two Impressionist paintings were missing on his return home, which surprised him, since he thought she wasn't that interested.

Shortly afterwards, he was heard asking someone on a film set: "Do you think this was cruel to my ex-wife, to give my son a drum for Christmas? A big drum, double-sided."

His own parents divorced when he was nine. Was he disappointed at being unable to break that mould? "Although my parents divorced, they set their differences aside. I'm grateful for that. I have joyful references as a parent, a very solid sense of encouragement of my own interests." But

his childhood was not without its own drama. His father made and lost a fortune developing real estate. Brought up on the ranch that Roy Rogers once owned in San Fernando valley, he has described the Kilmer childhood as "Tom Sawyer stuff."

Yet one of his two brothers, Wesley, drowned during an epileptic fit in the family swimming pool when he was 16. His other brother, Mark, a doctor, claims that Val doesn't want him in his life any more.

At 17, Val was the youngest student ever admitted to the drama department of New York's prestigious Juilliard school. "Since then I have been looking after myself."

Was it anxiety that prompted his need to control what went on around him?

"No. I don't suffer from anxiety. It has taken me a long time to figure out calmness, a sense of well-being within nature. My parents used to take us on trips to the desert so that we would have more sense of ourselves. Embrace nature."

Now 37, he lives alone on a ranch in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His only companions are buffalo and horses because he feels "a sense of well-being in a rural environment. More in touch with nature."

"I've been privileged living with interests other than movies. I've learnt from it. Now I'm doing job after job." To date, the jobs have included playing Jim Morrison in *The Doors*, Elvis Presley in *True Romance*, Doc Holliday in *Tombstone*, and opposite his hero Brando in *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

I couldn't have asked for more. Filming in Africa. Working with people like De Niro, and Brando, whom I've admired from childhood."

Doing a passable impression of Brando, he repeats some advice on social conditioning offered by the great one: "I've spent 50 years trying to get over the first ten."

Kilmer is now writing a film based on the life of little-known English explorer and anthropologist Adrian Boushler, who died in 1978, with whom he feels he has much in common. "I am fascinated by other people and their cultures. I will play Boushler, a most compelling man, someone who led a life full of mystical experiences. I'm looking for a director."

● The Saint opens this Friday at cinemas nationwide.

Enid Blyton was always a subversive — and children know it

## The secret power of Noddy and Big Ears

I am not sure we need official sanction from the National Centre for Research into Children's Literature to tell us, but there it is: Enid Blyton is rescued from disapprobation and well-intentioned scorn and declared a Good Thing. Now, while I agree, broadly speaking, I don't know quite how much I approve of her hearty rehabilitation.

Yes, we all know how absurd it might have been to condemn Noddy and Big Ears as insidious purveyors of a racist worldview, or try to ban her books from schools and libraries on grounds of snobbery and sexism, but the point is, Enid Blyton was always disapproved of. The reasons may have been different in my day, but she was considered no less a bad influence.

In either case, the fear is ill-founded. I followed in the *Mallory Towers* books, and the *Naughtiest Girl in the School* (I always found the Famous Five dreadfully suburban) and from that I learnt that reading was pleasurable, that reading was the best escape route into a rich, imaginative, private world, that reading was a delight and a solace and that books were the best company. From Blyton I went on to the Brontës, to Tennyson, to Aldous Huxley and Oscar Wilde. (Baldly speaking, these were my teenage passions.) In short: Enid Blyton taught me how to read.

But I can scarcely describe the scorn of my English teachers or the disbelieving envy of my school-friends, who were all banned from reading Enid Blyton at home, and would scrounge my cast-offs, devouring them with the greedy zeal of the *samizdat*-reader. Perhaps it is to the point that children like reading whatever figures of authority regard as rubbish. I don't know. But I do know it is wrong to depict Enid Blyton as the safe, smiling face of the golden age of childhood which has now disappeared. She was always considered subversive: she wrote for our benefit, not for parental approval.

What's more, her childhood was very different from the fantasy lives of her characters — as different as it was from the life of most of her readers. That was why we liked her. Too much of contemporary disdain has been prompted by the mistaken belief that Blyton was a realist writer chronicling an



Nigella Lawson

age of which we now heartily and politically disapprove. Nothing could be further from the truth. Blyton was a fantasist: she wrote to escape from her own life and understood that was just why children read, too.

When I was a child, there was a prim sense that literature should be improving; now it is meant to be relevant. But it is to misunderstand a child's thought processes — the way the imaginative mind works — to think that one can work out in advance whether a book can be either of these things. The contract between a book and a reader is always a private one, and needs no outside interference in the form of governessy finger-wagging. Anyone who thinks books serve any purpose other than to delight and (sorry to sound so minimally New Age) to nourish should be kept out of the way of both books and children.

I am quite prepared to believe that a child from an inner-city council estate could find pleasure and meaning in an Enid Blyton caper: fiction works by reflecting our inner lives, not merely the surface of our quotidian reality, as Bruno Bettelheim understood when he wrote about fairy tales in *The Uses of Enchantment*. I haven't read Enid Blyton for some time, but I am perfectly prepared to believe that her characterisations are every bit as crass and crude as my teachers sniffily pointed out. We may be right to

condemn adults who can never get beyond the literature of stereotypes, but for children it serves a liberating, transformational purpose.

All this may sound a very high minded way of defending Enid Blyton, and if so, I'm sorry. Nothing will stop children from reading her faster than to be told how good for them she is — and that's the last thing I'd want to do. In fact, writing this now has made me want to do nothing more than go and hide somewhere with a copy of *The Fifth Form at Mallory Towers*.

And I don't think one should apologise for one's low literary urges. When Philip Larkin was asked once about the consolations of literature, his interviewer, expecting a rather erudite reply, was surprised when Larkin said that when he felt really depressed, he helped himself out of it by staring into the bathroom mirror and saying: "I am Mrs de Winter now."

Compulsively readable though it was, there was something so dispiriting about the piece in yesterday's *Times* about teaching babies sign language. By some coincidence, I had just been thinking that, in a way, I found it sad that my nine-month-old baby was on the verge of acquiring language.

For the extraordinary thing is how much can be communicated without words. I disagree vehemently with the proposition that underpins the theory that it is an improvement to set babies speaking sign language, which is that one is frustratingly unable to understand what a baby is trying to say before it can talk. That couldn't be further from the truth. From a mother's perspective at any rate, it is rather the opposite: that the communication before language is acquired is extraordinarily total. It is right and good that babies do learn to talk, but in gaining language, this other, strong wordless means of communication is thereby lost.

I don't exactly lament that, although one sometimes can't help but feel rather mournful as one stage is given up for the next. Babies can express themselves perfectly well as it is: any communication problem is decidedly not theirs.

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## Alan Coren



Let this be  
our motto: equal  
sleaze for all

The deadline was 4pm today, and I have just made it. Only just: it was nip and tuck, I had to park on the double yellow outside the town hall and hobble pitifully from my car on cannily borrowed crutches to appease the sprinting meter-maid, but she gave me five minutes, and I have slithered under the wire. It is exactly what my supporters would have expected of me. They trust me to slither under anything. That is why their lapsels so proudly sport my party rossette and the emblematic little creature at its heart: let others dispute the ownership of mangy lion and toothless bulldog, let others dispatch chickens to do their dirty work, we have the lizard. Its voracious little tongue flicks ever in and out, its eager eyes swivel separately and endlessly, missing nothing, and should anyone try to apprehend it, its tail comes off in their hands, freeing it to scuttle off and slither under the nearest stone, to fight another day.

Yes, I have registered as the official Sleaze Party candidate for South Cricklewood. For it came to me, a week or so ago, that there was, to quote our party slogan, a gap in the market. There invariably is, that is what markets are for, just as laws are for loopholes. This particular gap was created by the outrageously negative candidacy of that white-suited scoundrel, Mr Martin Bell, who is standing, in every sense, for nothing, thereby not only disenfranchising the good people of Tatton but, far worse, plunging the less good people of Tatton into desolation at the prospect of ending up with an MP who would do them no good at all.

Well, it shall not happen in South Cricklewood. I have been out on the stump these seven days past, and I do believe I have my finger on the electoral pulse. I know what people want. I have, for example, not met one single painter, decorator, plumber, electrician or roofer who did not stand four-square behind our manifesto pledged to exempt from VAT all bills settled in used notes. Moreover, when I suggested that a typical parliamentary question from me might be: "May I draw the House's attention to the fact that Messrs Chas Fosselet & Stepbrother are in a position to rewire an entire four-bedroom home, plus remove all rubbish from site and make good, for less than two grand?" there was unequivocal backing from every professional doorstep. I have to say, too, that the twin planks of our road policy (privatised MOT tests at mutually agreed fees with an upper limit of £500 for certidoc on death-traps, and sales of roadside camera negatives to be negotiated personally between police and offenders) raised almost as many cheers with motorists as our pledge to means-test NHS waiting-lists — by giving admissions staff the chance to find out what means might be going — did with patients.

Many of my prospective constituents were, not surprisingly, deeply concerned over the appalling crime figures, so I was delighted to be able to reassure them about the measures that we in the Sleaze Party would take to reduce them. Fraud, for example, is a dirty word, and we are committed to looking for a much nicer one, with a view to making fraud a very rare crime indeed, and there is also a very good chance that we shall be in a position to decriminalise corruption altogether, two proposals which met with immense enthusiasm on the majority of middle-class doorsteps; while working-class households were no less attracted by my party's view, both humane and practical, that portable office equipment, frozen chickens, tools, overalls, lightbulbs, roller-towels, fan-heaters, canteen cutlery, and any other items not nailed down should go with the job, as they so frequently tend to anyway.

I wish only that time allowed me to expatiate on all the other radical policies which the people of Cricklewood (and, I have no doubt, the rest of the country) wish to see implemented, concerning everything from the small beer of gas-meters and television licences to the large beer of fact-finding missions to Cap d'Antibes for all and the availability on free prescription of nubile minor actresses with their own premises, but time is what I do not have. Barely three weeks remain, and I haven't even bought my black suit yet.



## Seeing, not believing

Tony Blair's sudden shifts do not convince me. The more he says what I like to hear, the less I like him for saying it

I am going to break the habit of a lifetime and discuss my voting intention. This is the first election in which I have gone so long still treading water. The pollsters tell me there are thousands like me. We all appear to be suffering Syndrome 97. The symptoms are clear. Inclined to a change, we find that every time Tony Blair says something with which we strongly agree, our feet start running away. Why?

Consistency is indeed the hobgoblin of small minds. No man can have endured an honest career in public affairs without one Damascus conversion, preferably as early as possible. The finest opinions are the product of thoughtful trial and error. Yet Mr Blair's ideological wanderings during this election are becoming pathological. He seems without any anchor at all. I once knew a Mr Blair whose commitment to Europe was 100 per cent, whose belief in trade union rights was no less firm, who vehemently opposed privatisation, whose liberalism on crime and punishment was impeccable and whose enthusiasm for devolving power to local and regional bodies was sincere. I believe that, at various times, this Mr Blair himself thought himself sincere. I do not know this man today. I see someone quite different. And if I see someone different today, I wonder whom I shall see tomorrow.

The Labour Party has become a kaleidoscope of shifting sincerities. If the Iron Lady achieved one great task, it was in wiping Labour's ideological slate clean and taking away the chalk. Even old troopers such as Ken Livingstone and Dennis Skinner can only stand round gupping through their gags. Mr Blair appears to regard his past sins in the cause of old Labour as "spent convictions". They are to be erased from his record. Like Prince Hal at his coronation, he turns on the Falstaffs of old Labour and rebukes them: "Leave gormandising. Know the grave doth gape for thee thrice wider than for other men." He adds that devastating epitaph on friendship: "Presume not that I am the thing I was."

Did I, Tony Blair, once tell you that privatisation was a heartless Tory gimmick? No, it can be most efficient. Did I declare that I would never obstruct the workings of the European Union? No, it will help to save British fish. Did I say I would reverse Tory union laws? Well, in a manner of speaking.

Was I liberal on crime or forward on education? Never. Was I really so enthusiastic about councils or assemblies raising their own taxes? Come. Mr Jenkins, where is your sense of history, or perhaps of humour. This is no place for the ghosts of pledges past. New Labour occupies the high ground of flexibility. Indeed it flexes the occupation of high ground. Not to mention grinding the flex of high occupation. New Labour is new words, new politics, new meaning, no meaning. Heigh ho, it's off to Downing Street we go.

As theatre, this is great stuff. While old Labour falls back in disarray, the hordes of luvvies, quickie-millionaires, think-tankers and journalists rush squealing to the trough. They see no policy. They want to see no policy. But they can smell power. New Labour is old Tories, old Liberals, old Social Democrats, old bankers, old Jesuits, old bishops, old Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all. The spectacle is hair-raising.

Dignity might appreciate some explanation for this tergiversation. But Dignity is not standing at this election. She has vanished to a nunnery. The grab for power is never nice. Already the antechambers of new Labour are filled with supplicants. Their eyes are wide and their peckers are bulging with billets doux. Mr Blair's pledge to "clean up" the honours system will suffer the same early fate as did Mr Major's.

I search in vain for fixed points in this fog. One such point is the Conservative Party. Inverted, grey and exhausted, it stands coldly exposed. The Cabinet's liberal meddling in every school, prison, hospital, neighbourhood, family even has become a ghastly terminal twitch. Yet the Tories have been efficient custodians of the economy.

British commerce is not in bad shape. The Conservative manifesto showed lingering traces of Thatcherite supply-side reform, notably on pensions. Ministers may desperately need a rest and their party may need to see things from a fresh viewpoint, but they are entitled to a sound reason for being bundled from office. We ain't that broke, they say. Why mend us? There is more to governing Britain than a pretty face.

At this stage in my argument, a strong Labour Party would put me up against a wall and give me a stern talk. It would tell me that after 18 years this country needs a spring clean under a new contractor. It would warn me that I might not like this contractor. The gap between rich and poor, between good and bad public services, has widened under the Tories. The time has come to redress the balance, however modestly.

There is plenty of new money, it would say, but too much has been splurged by the Conservatives on defence, farmers, prisons, drug companies; not enough on public transport, the mentally ill, schools, inner cities. The balance of central and local taxes has been wrong and has wrecked local services. Much privatisation has been a sham. The Tories told the country to swallow Margaret Thatcher's medicine. Now the country must accept Labour's repair job. Yes, this might cost some people some money. They can afford it. Give the other side a break.

I would accept that argument. I would admire it. Instead, Labour has worked up no antidote, only a welter of abstract nouns. Mr Blair presents a party yearning for the reins of power, aching for them, drooling over them, without so much as an A-Z of change. Mr Blair's "ten-point contract with the people" is pure glucose. When chided for this on *Panorama*, he was able to offer just one token of his intent. He said that he had modernised Labour, so surely he

could be trusted to modernise the country. If he could cleanse that Augean stable, British government should be a doddle.

Mr Blair did not cleanse the Labour Party, he razed it to the ground and supplanted it with a *de luxe* leader's Portakabin. Old Labour will grow again because all parties need to grow. A party is both a government's infantry and its political rootstock. Mr Major's weakness over the past four years has been his neglect of his party in the shires, the counties, even the suburbs. Labour will grow again from its old roots because they are those of its community of interest: the cities, the housing estates, the public sector unions. These interests will have their lobbies and their MPs. They will eventually make Mr Blair's life hell. I imagine that they will press this cynical election as a brand into his forehead. When he cries to them to desist, they will demand a price.

On this page last week, Ross McKibbin said new Labour was really old-old Labour. It was the party of Ramsay MacDonald and Philip Snowden, of kowtowing to the Establishment and ignoring the party's roots. But those early leaders fought elections pledged to change British politics in a specific direction. The pressures of office blew them off course. New Labour is "in denial" even before taking office. It is the Treasury party in exile. Apart from some referendums on constitutional reform, the core programme must be the oddest ever presented at a modern election. For most of its term of office, Labour promises to stick to the same spending priorities as the Tories. New Labour means caretaker for old Tory.

Mr Blair claims to represent a centrist revolution, but this is a pig in a poke. Just as he can be impressively open-minded and realistic, he can be equally vacuous and opportunistic. He is the most engaging of politicians, but he cannot instil trust in floating voters by saying only what he thinks they want to hear. The more he fixes audiences with his smile and parrots his pieties, the more they will head for the door.

For the present, I feel rather as poor Pickwick did when Mrs Bardell threw herself on him and cried, "Oh Sir, but this is most uncommon sudden."

## Is anyone governing America?

Bronwen Maddox  
on the paralysis  
of the President

For nearly an hour a day, a sweating President Clinton struggles through tortuous arm and chest exercises in the White House gym to boost his agility on crutches. A month after he ripped his knee tendon, he is said to be hugely frustrated at the physical constraints: Americans, who like their presidents vigorous, are also impatient for his recovery.

But although a crippled President is a powerful metaphor, the injury is hardly the cause of the paralysis gripping Washington. Apart from postponing and curtailing a trip to Latin America, Mr Clinton's physical condition has had little practical effect. Instead, the machinery of the White House and Capitol Hill has been halted by the campaign finance scandals and the ideological rifts in the Republican Party.

The extent of the paralysis is astounding. The budget apart, the White House has put no other important legislation to Congress nor, after almost 100 days, has Congress initiated important bills. This score sheet falls dramatically short of Mr Clinton's detailed programme for his second term.

By far the greatest brake on the President has been scandal. Above all, it is Whitewater, the Arkansas-based scandal that dominated his first term, which continues to throw up news damaging to the President. On Monday night, Jim McDougal, the Arkansas colleague of the First Family who was convicted in May on Whitewater charges, announced on television that he was "sick and tired of lying" for the President. And there is still no explanation of why Asian companies paid \$400,000 to Webster Hubbell, one of Mr Clinton's closest Arkansas friends — who was also convicted over Whitewater.

By comparison, the row over fundraising in last year's election has yielded no single damning fact, although it has consolidated the image of a President importing the incertainties of his home town's political life into Washington. But whether or not those scandals prove substantive, they are hobbling the President.

For the past two weeks, Mr Clinton has been trying to "punch through" the stories by launching small, uncontroversial domestic policies, but with little success. Coverage of his offering on Monday — a move to discourage consumers from buying goods produced in foreign sweatshops — was, for instance, eclipsed by the furore over Mr McDougal's comments. Nor has Mr Clinton's second tactic — emphasising foreign policy — had much success. Last week a belligerent Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, shrugged off his attempt to discourage Israel from building in East Jerusalem. And the apparent successes abroad of Mr Clinton's first term, Haiti and the Irish negotiations, are unravelling or stalled.

Most seriously, Mr Clinton now looks vulnerable over the two foreign issues which will dominate this summer: whether China's "most favoured nation" trading status should be reaffirmed, and whether the North American Free Trade Area pact should be extended. Mr Clinton's plan to include Chile in Nafta now looks a non-starter.

The impotence of the White House is matched by that of Mr Gingrich, two miles away on Capitol Hill. His supporters say that his recent "tough talking" trip to China helped to repair some of the damage to his stature, but his hold on the Speaker's office remains in doubt. With conservatives and tax-cutting enthusiasts suspicious that he is no longer promoting their views.

Hobbling the President and the Speaker would be enough to bring Washington to a standstill, but a third factor has now compounded the problem: Mr Gore's fear that he will be tainted by the Clinton scandals, and that the Democratic nomination for 2000 will slip through his grasp. Most of all, he fears Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority in the House and champion of old-style liberal Democratic policies. In a bid to usurp Mr Gephardt's territory, Mr Gore is starting to back Old Democrat policies such as union rights; in doing so, he is jeopardising the precarious consensus which Mr Clinton's conservative New Democrat philosophy had achieved.

Stepping back from this tableau of immobile figures, it is possible to blame some of the problem on prosperity. After a prolonged economic boom, companies are flush with money to shower on politicians, and despite some Americans' best efforts to portray China as a looming threat, there is no external enemy to compare with the Soviet Union of the Cold War. America is more easily governed in a crisis.

For the past few years, even in the absence of an indisputable emergency, Mr Clinton and Mr Gingrich have both managed to emerge government by force of personality. Each had a philosophy that bridged the ideological splits in his party, so enabling the passage of legislation. With both in a politically injured state, the splits are gaping.

Later this summer, when Mr Clinton's leg is out of bandages, Americans will no doubt once again be treated to pictures of their President riding horses and swinging golf clubs. But they will not see an active Presidency — or Congress — until both parties find ways to bridge their widening divisions. Unfortunately for the President and the Speaker's dreams of leaving memorable legacies, those conditions may not be met until the next century.

## Muzzled

THE BULLDOG adopted by Tony Blair and his party for their latest political broadcast is unlikely to prosper under a new Labour government. Bulldog breeders claim that the Labour Party has signed up to a European Council convention that would outlaw Fitz, the sturdy canine star of the broadcast, because he is inbred and mis-shapen.

Under the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, the characteristics which give the bulldog its Churchillian demeanour would be banned from breeding programmes.

Its "markedly folded skin", its snub nose and protruding bottom teeth would have to go, along with the long ears of the cocker spaniel, the abnormally positioned legs of the basset hound and the protruding eyes of the King Charles spaniel. In all, some 100 breeds of dog and cat are under threat from the treaty which would be ratified by a Labour government.

"I'd say that the Labour Party has shot itself in the foot," says Ginevra Elliott, bulldog breeder and secretary of the Council for Docketed Breeds. "Those spin-doctors with their great ideas don't

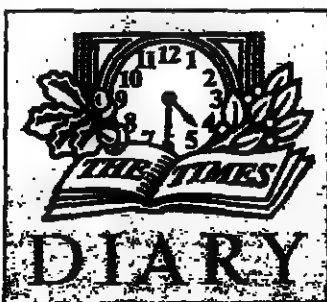
know what's going on in their own party."

Elliott Morley, MP, Labour's spokesman on pets, said in February: "We are committed to the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals in principle." The Tories are howling with delight: "We shall be expecting a U-turn on Labour's bulldog policy before the day is out." Yesterday, Labour was indeed promising a safe future for the breed.

● The launch in London of Alain de Botton's new novel, *How*



Bully for you



Proust Can Change Your Life, carried the theme a little too far for most guests on Monday night. While the Proustian canapés of madeleines (the Rive Gauche's answer to the fairy cake) were perfectly acceptable, the wine was corked and undrinkable. "We know Proust lived in a cork-lined study, but really... spluttered one guest, who remained unhelpfully sober.

## Falling off

IN Stratford-upon-Avon, Susanah York has taken a tumble during rehearsals for *Hamlet*. Making a spirited go of Gertrude with the Royal Shakespeare Company, she stepped confidently but unwittingly off the stage into the auditorium and cracked her heelbone, which means she's out of action.

"It's desperately inconvenient," wails the RSC. "We've just three weeks to go before we open and it will be very difficult to find any body of Miss York's calibre. We're urging all Shakespearians to step forward."

But not too hastily.

## Laying off

THE Prime Minister has sensibly avoided canvassing outside one company in his constituency for which he predicted a fabulous future two years ago.



"It's a pity his bite's not as fierce as Dame Angela's"

Fired by the occasion in March 1995 when he opened the £16 million turbine manufacturer, he described Peter Brotherhood Ltd as "an immense success" and "one of the best and most excellently equipped factories I have ever seen". He added: "The future ahead of you is very bright." Two years on, the company has cut its workforce of 325 by nearly 40 per cent — last week alone, it proposed axing 70 jobs.

● Election fatigue may have set in, but the political manifestos nevertheless made last week's best-seller lists. Leading the three, at number 55 in the Whitaker Book-trail list, is the Labour Party manifesto; the Conservatives come in at number 57; and the Liberal Democrats are at 60.

## Soft line

THAT SOFT-FOCUS picture of the Prince of Wales's friend Camilla Parker Bowles, taken by Sir Geoffrey Shakerley on behalf of the National Osteoporosis Society, brings to mind the official "arrival" of her great-grandmother, Alice Keppel, the mistress of Bertie, Prince of Wales who became Edward VII.

It was a good three years after she had started walking out with



Alice and Violet Keppel

Edward that she consented to appearing "officially" in the journals of the day. My picture, which adorned the cover of *Country Life* in 1899 was no paparazzi-snatched shot. Rather, it was set up with the knowledge and approval of the Prince, so as to confer respectability on the mistress of the future monarch — just as Sir Geoffrey's portrait apparently attempts to do this week.

P.H.S





## BRITISH BULLDOGS

Dame Angela's stand does democracy a double service

Labour last night tried to appropriate Britain's bulldog spirit but it is in the Conservative Party that the terriers are off the leash. The party's candidates, with Dame Angela Rumbold at their head, are outbidding each other in their opposition to a European single currency. They may be happy for their leaders to negotiate but on their own account they have already decided. The Opposition says that it is delighted by the Tory candidates' open defiance of John Major's "wait and see" policy. They see this rebellion as just the latest humiliation visited on Mr Major by his own side. The voters may see it rather differently.

The electorate has been denied direction on Europe by two party leaders so far determined to keep every option open. Tony Blair taunts Mr Major for framing his policy on a single currency to appease opposing Tory factions. But the Prime Minister can afford to ignore an accusation that he knows is undermined by the Labour leader's own actions. If Mr Major's policy is weak, then why is it also Mr Blair's policy? By imitating Mr Major's indecision Mr Blair is, in effect, flattering the Prime Minister's judgment.

The voters are unlikely to be so impressed by the leaders' refusal to say where they stand on the most important decision this country has confronted for decades. Faced with this collective dumbness the voters may very well prefer the candour of Dame Angela and her colleagues. By their actions they are helping to crystallise the choice at this election. Despite the fact that the election has become a presidential contest, the real choice is still the choice that individual voters make about individual candidates. Even as the leaders converge on the treacherous middle ground, their supporters are colonising firmer terrain.

Since the fall of Margaret Thatcher, through the watershed White Wednesday and the traumatic ratification of the Maastricht treaty, the Tory party has been evolving into a more sceptical creature. Dame Angela's stand may mark the final transition in the party's development from

poodle to boxer. The process has been accelerated by the replacement of a generation inclined to acquiesce in integration with one prepared to fight. That development can only be reinforced by the Referendum Party's targeting of the dwindling band of Conservative Euro-enthusiasts.

Robust and unapologetic Euroscepticism is no longer, it appears, restricted to the men in "flapping white coats"; it now extends to the women in blue Jaeger suits. As many as 167 Tory candidates in winnable Conservative seats have signalled their opposition to EMU. By their actions they mock the vacuum which passed for a policy with both party leaderships. They also give the voters a choice. Rather than acting as silent accomplices in the smuggling of sovereignty they have stood up to be counted.

Counting them with perhaps more concern than it might admit to should be the Labour leadership. For all the studied ambiguities of Mr Blair and the modulated doubts of Robin Cook, the Labour Party is in its heart altogether more enthusiastic for Europe than the Tories. Just as the Tory party has seen attitudes change with the generations, so has Labour. Labour's sceptics are the day before yesterday's men. Mr Blair may proclaim his patriotism but the most committed modernisers, from Gordon Brown to Peter Mandelson, a vice-president of the European Movement, are also committed integrationists.

It is an unhappy commentary on Mr Major's faith in the durability and credibility of a wait-and-see policy that he has had it so derisively flouted by his troops. It is hard to see how it reflects well on his leadership that the Tories in the country have chosen to fight a different battle from the one he wished to lead them into. Yet for voters increasingly exasperated by leaders who argued over change and trust and could not be trusted to face up to the greatest change of all, Dame Angela and her colleagues provide a reason to rally to one flag. They are doing democracy a double service, setting their face against its erosion and providing a real choice now, when it is most needed.

## PARENTS AND POLITICS

When is hypocrisy not hypocrisy?

In this humid electoral atmosphere, the April showers have been of personal abuse. Voters claim to be tired of the insults, some of which are indeed offensive and gratuitous. But others are offensive and justified. How should politicians and public draw the line between the two?

Politicians can rightly be judged on their record: it is, for instance, a sign of John Major's weak leadership that he could not stand up to Kenneth Clarke on the single currency. To call the Prime Minister "weak" might not be polite but it can be justified. It is also fair to accuse Tony Blair of "flipping-flopping" over privatisation: so recent was his conversion that it did not even make Labour's manifesto. But to call him "phony" for not much better reason than that it rhymes with "Tony" is less an act of criticism and more a piece of abuse.

The most recent Tory taunt is of hypocrisy. Both Mr Major and Michael Heseltine have called Mr Blair a hypocrite for sending his sons to a grant-maintained school outside his London borough. Yesterday, Mr Heseltine took the attack into the outer reaches of hyperbole. Because the Labour leader went to public school, he said, he could not possibly understand the state system. Mr Heseltine, a public schoolboy himself, went on to say that Mr Blair wanted to deny parents the choice that his own parents had had, to send him to private school.

The latter charge is nonsense. Labour has no plans to prevent children going to private schools. Nor does Mr Blair's own education have significant bearing on his understanding of the state system; if that were so, Mr Heseltine would be no better informed. Memories of the state system 30 or 40 years

ago are not much guide to understanding it today; it is much more useful for politicians to experience the system as parents. Mr Blair, unlike Mr Heseltine and most of his Cabinet colleagues, does so: indeed if he wins power, he will be the first Prime Minister to have children at state schools while he is in Downing Street.

In the old days, Labour politicians often educated their children privately. Now the argument is over which type of state school they should choose. The Conservative charge against Mr Blair is that he is sending his children to a type of school that he plans to abolish. Yet Labour has no intention of abolishing either grant-maintained schools or church schools. And, as Mr Blair pointed out yesterday, there is a long tradition of parents sending their children to religious schools in different boroughs.

A trickier case is that of Harriet Harman. She sent her son to a selective grammar school soon after the Shadow Education Secretary, David Blunkett, had said "no selection under a Labour government". At the time, it was a blatant breach of party policy, though now the line has softened: Labour says that it will abolish existing grammar schools only if a petition and ballot of local parents demand it.

Should parents who are also politicians choose a school according to their party's current policy or what best suits their child? Ms Harman put maternal instinct ahead of her career and tapped public sympathy in the process. She may have been called hypocritical and she will suffer in the Labour Party for her actions. But at least she will not regret on her deathbed a decision to sacrifice her child's success for her own.

## WORK FOR ST HELENA

One way for Britain to right an ex-imperial wrong

The crime of setting a police transit van on fire would hardly merit the attention of a local reporter in Birmingham or Belfast. But when this happens in a community as remote, peaceful and law-abiding as St Helena, Foreign Office officials should take note. For though the incident may be an isolated act of arson, there is no mistaking the rumbling discontent on the volcanic outcrop in the South Atlantic. St Helena, Napoleon's final place of exile and death, is going through troubled times. Islanders are almost entirely dependent on diminishing Government hand-outs; opportunities for work overseas are shrinking; and recent resignations from the local council and a spat with the British Governor have raised local hackles and tempers.

The sun set on the British Empire a generation ago. But in the 13 pink dots scattered across the world, all that is left (excluding Hong Kong) of an imperial past most Britons have long forgotten, the fading rays are still the only warmth that 170,000 overseas subjects know. Many fear that the warmth is now cooling, as Britain seeks to unburden itself of its residual responsibilities.

For the Queen's 6,000 loyal subjects on St Helena, the nearest mainland is more than a thousand miles away; the nearest commercial airport is in Cape Town. The only

connections to the outside world are the ships that sail four times a year to Cardiff and nine times to South Africa. There is virtually no private industry, no regional market and no outside investment. About 500 tourists arrive a year: some to look at Napoleon's two immaculately preserved houses.

A month ago Sir Nicholas Bonsor called a conference in London to look at ways of boosting investment in St Helena. The figures are certainly depressing: the island imports £4.7 million worth of goods a year, and exports a mere £145,000. Britain has just announced a £26 million aid package over the next three years: a higher amount per head than to any other territory. It may help; but hand-outs are not what the islanders want. They ask only to be allowed to come to Britain to seek temporary work.

Until the 1981 Nationality Act, they were able to earn good money in Britain; now they can find employment only in the Falklands or on Ascension. Allowing in a few hundred St Helenians, many willing to fill the vacancies in care work, is the least Britain can do to rectify an injustice that was made solely for fear of setting a precedent for Hong Kong. Britain still has world responsibilities: it owes a decent generosity to the subjects whose lives it still controls.

## Questions raised by Labour policies

From the Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, Halfway through the campaign some very big questions about Labour's economic policies remain unanswered by Gordon Brown. Soundbite slogans are wearing a bit thin. May I use the courtesy of your columns to try again to get answers?

1. Does he accept that a windfall tax on the privatised companies will be paid for by millions of customers, employees and shareholders? How can a once-off windfall tax pay for a continuing make-work programme?

2. Mr Blair and Mr Brown use a soundbite which says: "The Conservatives have doubled the national debt." They take the base year of 1990, when the national debt was at its lowest since 1915. Twice a low number is still a low number, in historical terms. Britain's stock of debt is, for example, lower than Germany's or Japan's.

The purpose of this soundbite is to say "the public finances are in a mess". If so, do Labour think they ought to put up taxes to bring debt down faster than we are? If "yes" — which taxes? If "no" — they must stop using their soundbite.

3. Releasing local authorities' receipts increases public spending and borrowing. So Labour would worsen the debt position by this policy — unless they propose to cut out spending or put up taxes. Will they do so, or will they worsen the debt position of the country?

Some "old" Labour supporters undoubtedly hope that the new Labour leadership, once elected, will simply revert to higher spending and taxing. Mr Brown's equivocations seem to confirm that this is the case.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE,  
Conservative Campaign HQ,  
5 Westfield Park, Redland, Bristol.  
April 11.

## Drugs and prisons

From Dr J. A. Garfoot

Sir, Mr Harold Mitchell (letter, April 8; see also letter, March 31) says that crime cannot be controlled by lenient sentences.

With a 53 per cent recidivism rate, according to a Home Office study of all prisoners released in 1993 (report, March 24), it would seem that any prison sentence has a very limited success. This is especially true of drug-related crime.

At this private clinic for habitual addicts with an intractable problem, 200 of our patients had been in and out of prison several times before they came to us and had served a total of 600 years behind bars. Over the past two years only seven have returned to jail and then mainly for offences committed previously.

This 3.5 per cent reoffending rate surely demonstrates that maintenance treatment with a view to possible eventual detoxification is far more effective than locking them up.

Yours sincerely,  
J. A. GARFOOT,  
Laybourne Clinic,  
Laybourne House,  
Admiral's Way, E14.  
April 9.

## Medical consent

From Dr Michael Abrams

Sir, I was the British chairman of the drafting committee of the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. It is not correct to say, as Dr R. H. Nicholson, Editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, does today, that public circulation of early drafts was restricted by me.

What is correct is that such documents can be made public only with the approval of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and indeed a consultation draft was published in July 1994 by the Council of Europe.

Any interested party could then have obtained a copy from the Council of Europe and submitted comments. Subsequently the Department of Health made this draft available for comment and consulted with relevant bodies in this country, including the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ABRAMS,  
97 Wood Vale, N10.  
April 10.

## Spelling it out

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, Eur Ing H. Bibring (letter, April 10; see also letter April 15) asks why people give dates as "two thousand and fourteen", rather than saying "twenty fourteen".

Actually the problem is specific to the years 2000 to 2009. One has a choice for the later decades, but must adopt the former usage when speaking of the first decade to avoid misunderstandings.

If I tell my boss that I plan to retire in April twenty one, I might find myself put out to grass four years hence — 2001, instead of my planned date in 2021.

Yours faithfully,  
N. R. MACNICOL,  
9 Church Lane,  
Greatham,  
Oakham, Rutland.  
April 15.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Election: tax, the Lords and Europe

From Mr Ian Bryant

Sir, The Institute for Fiscal Studies, in its report on the effects of tax changes, says that since 1979, whilst the income of society's poorest 10 per cent has increased by only 6 per cent, that of the richest 10 per cent of households has risen by 59 per cent (report, April 10).

Could we scrub all the TV debating and, instead, would the whole nation stay silent for five minutes whilst John Major justifies the inequity of the rich having got richer ten times faster than have the poor since the Tories came to power.

Yours despairingly,  
IAN BRYANT,  
Hipping Hall, Cowan Bridge,  
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.  
April 10.

From Mrs Susan Milligan

Sir, "What counts is what works" (Tony Blair speaking to a City of London audience, report, April 8) — but not, it seems, for the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN MILLIGAN,  
18a Hayburn Crescent, Glasgow.

From Mr Duncan Bryson

Sir, Despite Tony Blair having once signed up to CND, I now trust him not to give away our nuclear deterrent. He is going to sell it.

Yours sincerely,  
DUNCAN BRYSON,  
104 Martin Avenue, Irvine, Ayrshire.  
April 8.

From Mrs Margaret Daly

Conservative Parliamentary  
Candidate for Weston-super-Mare

Sir, I object most strongly to William Rees-Mogg's reference to me in his article today as being as "Euro-fanatical" as Edwina Currie. I am a positive European but totally pragmatic in my attitude to the European Union. I fully

support the Conservative policy on Europe as outlined in our manifesto.

Indeed, the local chairman of the Campaign for an Independent Britain recently issued a public statement saying that he would be supporting me. He has rejoined the Conservative Party since my selection and has been out delivering leaflets on my behalf.

Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET DALY,  
Campaign Headquarters,  
28 Boulevard Weston-super-Mare,  
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.  
April 14.

From Mr Frederick Cosstick

Sir, As an Englishman, Sussex born and bred, I was somewhat alarmed to find my political future and the future of Britain in Europe being discussed on *Newsnight* last evening in Scottish accents by a panel consisting of Malcolm Rifkind, Charles Kennedy and Robin Cook.

Am I politically incorrect by daring to raise this issue in your august columns?

Yours faithfully,  
FRED COSSTICK,  
3 High View Court,  
Silverdale Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.  
April 10.

From Mr Christopher Harris

Sir, For many years far too many people have failed to record their votes.

I commend the system in New South Wales, Australia. Voting there is a legal duty, and failing to vote a criminal offence. The ballot sheet has a box for abstentions. In my view an abstention is perfectly sensible if one dislikes all the other options.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER HARRIS,  
17 Rookwood Court,  
Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey.  
April 14.

Fred Zinnemann, who fought against this coloured process in Britain and the US, thoroughly approved of the French decision. He lived to see a limited director's moral right provided in the UK in 1989, and the director made co-author with the producer from December 1, 1996, implementing EU directives.

However, great black and white films (being in any case pre-1989) may in principle not be legally safe in this country from colourisation. Moreover, in the case of satellite transmissions which do not have legal safeguards, even France would have difficulty in protecting the integrity of the director's work.

Yours faithfully,  
JACK BLACK,  
[Co-author with Robert Merkin,  
Copyright and Designs Law,  
FT Law and Tax, 1997,  
9 Park Avenue, NW1].  
April 13.

folk violinist from the school, Volker Biesenbender, well known on the Continent and in our music conservatoires; Stephanie immediately became Nigel's wonderfully generous tutor in jazz. It was shortly after his visit to the school that Stephanie invited Nigel to play jazz at Ronnie Scott's club, where night after night Nigel played with his great mentor.

Yes, we need more Lennie Bernstein. But what neither he nor I could ever quite bring ourselves to do was to exit from the stage with a pint of bitter!

Yours truly,  
YEHUDI MENUHIN,  
65 Chester Square, SW1.  
April 13.

## Sweet and bitter

From Lord Menuhin, OM

Sir, No one could be more delighted than I to read your third leader on Saturday (April 12). Nigel Kennedy is one of the more unconventional spirits spawned by my school, following in my footsteps not only in his love of Bach and Bartok (the Solo Sonata I commissioned in 1943) but also in bridging similar worlds of music so dear to me as those of Johnny Dankworth, Oscar Peterson, Stephanie Grappelli and Ravi Shankar.

Ravi Shankar and Stephanie Grappelli both visited the Yehudi Menuhin School — Ravi inspiring another great

## Lottery and the Church

From Mr Keith Porteous Wood

Sir, The Church Commissioners recently enlightened us about the Church of England's assets which, you report, "have soared to a record £3 billion" (April 1).

The Archbishop of Canterbury now seeks lottery payouts to fund church repairs (report, April 7; letter, April 9). Surely lottery distributions should be for the disadvantaged, not for vastly wealthy organisations that could manage without them.

Yours sincerely,  
K. PORTEOUS WOOD  
(General Secretary),  
National Secular Society,  
Bradlaugh House,  
47 Theobald's Road, WC1.  
April 9.

## Pedestrian crossings

From Mr Mark Whitby

Sir, An excellent new form of pedestrian crossing is appearing in many of our towns. In the form of a raised element of the road level with the pavement, with paving instead of asphalt, and with approaches of cobbles.

Whilst clearly intended to make it easier for us to cross the road, do these crossings imply a right of way for pedestrians in the manner that zebra crossings do, or are they just another form of sleeping policeman?

Yours sincerely,  
MARK WHITBY,  
5 Broughton Gardens, N6.  
April 9.

## Burial of London's precious history

From Professor Andrew Gurr

Sir, The long election campaign seems to have freed ministers from facing difficult decisions. John Gummer, Virginia Bottomley and Lord Inglewood, the ministers responsible for matters of national heritage, are refusing to question English Heritage's outrageous view that the decision by Southwark Council Planning Committee to allow building over the original Globe site need not be referred to them. A flood of letters from academics and others interested in finding more about Shakespeare's theatre, including a petition sent by 493 members of the Shakespeare Association of America, has been ignored.

Since taking control of London's sites in 1991, English Heritage has applied a blanket policy of leaving every site buried. This has the advantage of cheapness, while serving the developers' interests in allowing new building on top of the sites so long as they are not actually destroyed. It also has, however, the massive disadvantage of blocking any new information about the sites. This policy has destroyed the expertise London archaeologists developed up to 1991, and is now blocking a whole generation of students, scholars and the public at large from learning more about early London.

This policy of mindless burial does serious damage when applied to sites containing uniquely important structures like Shakespeare's Globe (letter, March 22). Much more was learned about the Globe's design from the small section that the Museum of London archaeologists dug up in 1989 than had been found in centuries of study up to then. Now a crane looms ominously over the site, and English Heritage has set itself against any more digs into the floor of Anchor Terrace, where the foundations of the original stage still exist.

The Government tacitly accepts the English Heritage view and ignores the outcry against it. People in the future will find it hard to forgive such short-term thinking.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW GURR,  
University of Reading,  
Department of English,  
Whiteknights,  
PO Box 218, Reading RG6 6AA.  
April 14.

## Tewkesbury battlefield

From Mr Michael Rayner

Sir, I am amazed by the statement which you attribute to the leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council (report, April 7; letter, April 9) that there is "no evidence" that the Gastons, the field on which the council is proposing to build 62 new houses, was where the battle of Tewkesbury was fought in 1471.

Primary sources, as well as the landscape itself and thorough modern research, prove that the Gastons site is within the area so designated on the English Heritage battlefields register.

Such sites have far more value than their monetary worth: they must be preserved for future generations. We trust that the Secretary of State for the Environment will intervene.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL RAYNER  
(Co-ordinator),  
The Battlefields Trust,  
Meadow Cottage, 33 High Green,  
Brooke, Norwich, Norfolk.  
April 7.

## Childhood literature

From Mrs Christine McRitchie Pratt

Sir, As another reader with fond memories of *Little Grey Rabbit* (letter, April 10), never do I see the letters RSVP at the bottom of an invitation without remembering, thankfully, that Rat Shant Visit Party.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTINE MCRTICHEL PRATT,  
Brackendale,  
Shelford Bottom,  
Babraham Road, Cambridge.  
April 11.

From Mrs A. G. Lynne

Sir, For me it is the blind faith from that "simpler" time of poor Jimma nibbling her own stuffing that brings the tear whenever I cut up bits of sage.

Yours faithfully,  
A. G. LYNN,  
Dedham House,  
Dedham, nr Colchester, Essex.  
April 10.

## They're over here

From Mr D. P. Wright

Sir, I am the Housemaster of a Haileybury School boy's boarding house named after Rudyard Kipling. I have just opened a letter, addressed to Kipling House, from the Associate Dean of a famous American university. It begins, "Dear Kipling, Clean out a desk drawer! This is just the first millimeter of the two-meter stack of letters and glossy brochures headed your way ..."

What can I do to prevent this unsolicited assault?

Yours faithfully,  
D. P. WRIGHT  
(Housemaster),  
Kipling House,  
Haileybury, Hertford SG13 7NU.  
April 12.

Letters to the Editor  
that are intended  
for publication should carry a  
daytime telephone number. They  
may be sent to a fax number —  
0171-782 5046.







## OBITUARIES

## WILLIAM RIGHTER

William Righter, former Reader in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Warwick, died of cancer in London on April 14 aged 69. He was born in Kansas City on August 31, 1927.

A charming, intellectual and, above all, cultured American, William Righter was a figure who might almost have stepped from the pages of a Henry James novel. Indeed, he held the work of James in the highest regard and became increasingly interested by the subtle inflections of his moral universe. In retirement he met regularly in a London pub with like-minded scholars to discuss "the Master's" ambiguities and veiledness.

It was the interface between philosophy and literature which Righter examined. As a Reader in English and Comparative Literature at Warwick University, he was admired for his wide-ranging scholarship and open-minded critical and philosophical approach.

He refused the over-simple and the schematic, contributing in his distinctively humane, subtle and allusive manner to critical debates from Empson and Richards to Kristeva and Derrida. The enduring end of criticism, he wrote in his *Logic and Criticism* (1963), is "to open up as much of the work as one can, and relate as much as seems relevant to both literary and personal situation".

Valued as a lecturer, Righter's sceptical probing of the role of the "study" of literature in relation to the intelligent "reading" of it, gave a distinctive flavour to his teaching. He was greatly influenced by Isaiah Berlin, as well as by Montaigne's perception that "every example turns", and his acute awareness of the pitfalls of relativism never led him to swerve from his abiding commitment to pluralism.

Righter chose to live in Europe for much of his life. He understood its many-faceted culture, approaching it with that particular insight and



sensitivity which an outsider can sometimes bring. He haunted museums all over the world, from the Nelson Gallery in Kansas City to the Uffizi, from the British Museum to the Louvre. Guests who were invited to sit around his dinner table — at which carefully selected wines and foods would be served — would be treated to discourses of delicate

discernment and profound learning, always delivered in perfect Jamesian sentences. Righter unfurled his thoughts in elegantly rolling clauses, never struck by hesitation or at a loss for the *mot juste*. He also had a particular rapport with the young and was a sensitive, careful and encouraging listener.

William Harvey Righter began his

academic career at Harvard, from which he graduated in 1949 *cum laude* in philosophy. He went on to read for his MA at Kansas University where in 1951 he was appointed Whitcomb Fellow in Comparative Literature, a position he was to hold for two years.

In 1954 he went to Oxford, where he obtained a BLitt, before returning to the United States to teach at Cornell University. There, as a young lecturer, he was accused by an elderly departmental gargon, "Young man, you must get yourself a century," she admonished. Throughout his life Righter resolutely declined to take this advice. He was never rammed in his thought, either by specialty or tradition.

Righter returned to France and then to England in 1960 where he lectured at King's College, Cambridge, and supplemented his salary teaching servicemen at the University of Maryland (Overseas). As his students were of highly varied educational background, to assess them he always asked them to write an account of their lives. One student began: "I was born in a house of sin and hate." It was, Righter thought, a terrible thing to try to educate a man who would never write a better sentence in his life.

Righter published his first book in 1963, *Logic and Criticism*, a carefully reasoned study of the ways in which literature has been discussed, mainly in the present century. Entirely "naturalistic" or entirely "aesthetic" explanations were inadequate, Righter argued, and with characteristic vigour and precision he unearthed all that might be inaccurately assumed by a critical remark. He showed how narrow could be the single-stranded approach of critics such as Cleanth Brooks (with his concept of irony) or William Empson (with his ideas of ambiguity). This book, wrote a reviewer in *The Times Literary Supplement*, "wields a knife that will go on cutting... for a long time".

In 1964 Righter published a second

work, *The Rhetorical Hero*, a distinguished contribution to the study of André Malraux, a writer whom he saw as "a last incarnation of 'Paustian man'". Righter, with "his fresh and critical mind", shows, as one reviewer phrased it, "an intelligence quite equal to that of Malraux".

With his expertise in both literary studies and philosophy, Righter was invited in 1965 by Professor George Hunter to join him at the foundation of the University of Warwick to set up its department of English and Comparative Literature.

From the start he helped to develop its innovative role in studying English literature in its European and American literary contexts. He spread the comparativist word in the University of Hong Kong in the early 1970s when, on secondment from Warwick, he was for three years Professor of Comparative Literature there.

Righter was influential in the pioneering work on the study of the inter-relationships between philosophy and literature, for which Warwick University has become well known. He worked closely with members of the philosophy department and continued to support its centre for research in philosophy and literature, even after his retirement in 1993. He participated in a seminar last summer with Professor Martha Nussbaum on Henry James.

Righter published two other significant works in his life: *Myth and Literature* (1975) and *The Myth of Theory* (1994). The last reveals a philosophical mind, unlimited by any single tradition, taking a clear and demanding look at the areas over which literary theory too often claims too little or too much. He was also the general editor of the series *Concepts of Literature* and, up until the time of his death, he was preparing a manuscript on the late work of Henry James.

William Righter was three times married. His wife since 1968, Rosemary Righter, is the chief leader writer of *The Times*.

## TIMOTHY MASON



Timothy Mason, cellist, died of cancer in London on April 4 aged 48. He was born on April 29, 1948.

TIM MASON was a fine performing musician, but his energies and enthusiasms for so many different aspects of his profession made him an especially influential force in the worlds of new music and period performance.

He began the chamber group Capricorn and played a crucial role in the founding of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; his knowledge, vision and innate sensitivity were a source of inspiration to countless performers, conductors and administrators.

The third of the four sons of Stewart Mason, Chief Education Officer for Leicestershire and a founder of the Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra, Timothy George Stewart Mason began playing the cello at the age of seven.

In 1958, at the age of ten, he went to the Pilgrims' School, Winchester, as a "quirter". He was so academically precocious that he was sent over to Winchester College for lessons, and he eventually completed his schooling there, taking O, A and S-levels at an abnormally early age.

His musical skills were nurtured by the college head of music Christopher Cowan and by his wife Jane, who taught him the cello. He won a place in the National Youth Orchestra: the NYO years furthered his musical acumen, as well as establishing lifelong friendships — for example with Mark Elder, the conductor and David Pountney, the opera director.

Mason won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge. He was a brilliant student — "there was nothing to teach him, he knew it all already," commented one of his professors — and he was urged to stay on in academic music. But he had always wanted to be a cellist and, after taking his Cambridge degree, he did a BMus so that he could study the cello with Maurice Gendron in Paris for six months. This also entailed producing a portfolio of original compositions — his was impressive and the examination panel encouraged him to become a composer.

Back in England he lived in a flat in Hampstead above some science laboratories, where he attempted to grow mushrooms in the basement (gardening was always something of an obsession with him). He freelanced with various orchestras and founded the chamber group of Capricorn which has a special interest in contemporary music and whose instrumentation is not fixed. At their first try-out concert in a private

house in Notting Hill in 1973 the programme included Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* (for piano, violin, clarinet and cello).

Mason's musical tastes were completely catholic and he was as at home tackling new music (much of it commissioned by him for Capricorn) as he was playing in period instrument ensembles. As co-principal cellist of The English Baroque Soloists and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and cellist in the London Fortepiano Trio, he took part in many recordings.

His prodigious energy was poured not only into his own performing but also into the organisation of the groups in which he played. As chairman of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for eight years, he had a profound influence on every aspect of the orchestra's activities — from repertoire to guest artists. A more conscientious administrator would be hard to imagine: nothing he did was informed by self-interest but rather by a passionate sense of wanting the music to be performed as well as possible.

In the mid-1970s Mason bought a house in then unfashionable Hackney with the viola player Jan Schlapp, whom he married. Alongside his professional commitments, he worked on musical analysis at London University, while deliberately not seeking a further academic degree. The study of analysis was typical of his inquiring mind, always eager to delve further towards understanding of music of all kinds.

Yet playing the cello remained his bedrock. His chosen instrument had been his companion throughout life — from the hours of scales in the school holidays through the concertos he played with the Leicestershire Orchestra and in Cambridge to the constant orchestral and chamber concerts of his professional life.

He continued playing professionally until his last trip abroad last month to Paris to perform with John Eliot Gardiner's *Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique*. It was a source of great regret to him that he had been too ill to play in the same orchestra's recent Schumann weekend at the Barbican — since Schumann was one of the many composers in whom he had a passionate interest.

The cancer that struck him last summer forced Mason to take life more easily than ever before, and queues of visitors formed in the corridors of St Bartholomew's Hospital. It is a measure of his extraordinary selflessness that he expressed surprise that he had so many friends.

He is survived by his wife Jan and their children Nathaniel and Lucy.

## AUDREY HARVEY



Audrey Harvey, journalist and charity worker, died on April 10 aged 85. She was born on March 3, 1912.

FOR 25 years Audrey Harvey was one of the more distinguished contributors to the *New Statesman*. Writing only three or four times a year, she specialised in stories of injustice in the housing field — dealing with possession orders, rent arrears, tied occupancies and all the other legal problems that used to affect the lives of those whom, in the title of an influential 1950s Fabian pamphlet, she once termed *Casualties of the Welfare State*.

That, no doubt, risks making her copy sound worthy but dull. In fact, it was never anything of the sort. Audrey Harvey possessed a remarkable capacity for story-telling, as was reflected in the headlines (always chosen by herself) for her articles. These varied between "Man About the House", through "The Furnished Room Mystery" to "The Case of the Student's Wife".

Perhaps, however, her most famous piece was one she wrote in February 1977. It was about a man-and-wife team who had been employed at a house in Mayfair to look after the property, largely in its owner's absence. The wife had died and their employer was seeking to evict the surviving husband. The article was called simply "The Duke's Servant" — and, though the dual identity was disguised, it was sufficiently thinly concealed for it to be guessed at in one by the Duke of Devonshire's sister-in-law, Jessica Mitford (who proceeded to make maximum mischief out of it). The article read — as she wrote at the time — "like a Somerset Maugham or even a Maupassant short story".

Harvey's writing facility was, of course, linked to considerable knowledge. Although not a lawyer herself, few members of the legal

profession knew more about the provisions of the various Rent Acts or the regulations for Supplementary Benefit than she did. She had mastered her material the hard way — starting out by involving herself in a Citizens' Advice Bureau in the East End of London, going on to be a founder member of the Child Poverty Action Group, of which she was for two years the citizens' rights officer, and ending up as a prominent supporter of the housing charity, Shelter. (She had been active in advising Jeremy Sandford on the famous TV drama-documentary of 1966, *Cathy Come Home*, which led to Shelter's foundation.)

Typical of her less colourful but no less solid work was the Penguin special she published in 1964 entitled *Tenants in Danger* — not just a philippic against rapacious landlords but a complete *vide-mecum* for all those who, in the immediate post-Rachman era, found themselves at their mercy.

At first sight, Audrey Harvey was an improbable agent for so much campaigning energy. The product of a conventional girls' boarding school and Oxford University, where she read English, she retained the patrician aura belonging to her background. In courts and tribunals, where she often appeared to lend her personal support to the cases she took up, this mood, her in good stead — magistrates and tribunal chairmen tending to believe that there must be something to be said for a cause embraced by so well-spoken a witness. Yet though her middle-class demeanour may have broken the ice, it was her total command of her subject that enabled justice at least sometimes to prevail.

Audrey Harvey was twice married. She is survived by her second husband, the osteopath Ronald Harvey, to whom she had been married for almost 50 years, and by a daughter.

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## WOMEN'S EMIGRATION.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—The question of the employment of women of the educated classes who are obliged to earn their livelihood is becoming year by year a more urgent matter. The numerical preponderance of women over men in this country is chiefly marked in the upper strata of society, and the problem becomes more difficult the higher the education and the social status. On a visit to this country nothing so impresses the thinking Canadian, Australian, or South African, who is accustomed to a system where women are in a minority, as the excess of women of his own class, many of whom have before them little chance of a useful and attractive career. The young man of the educated classes goes abroad to make his way in the world, but his sister, however capable, has no such outlook. She is compelled to often to linger at home till her youth is past, with no better prospect than a future of aimless and dreary spinsterhood, or to swell the ranks of some of the badly-paid and overworked professions open to present women in this country.

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## ON THIS DAY

## April 16, 1910

## ON THIS DAY

## April 16



## How do you protect the unprotectable?

Privacy is dead. Camcorders, surveillance cameras, cash machines and credit cards record every aspect of our lives. Mobile phones can be listened to. Soon satellites will be able to track any moving object anywhere on the globe. With no secrets left, how to protect the unprotectable?

The new Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC) is under statutory obligation to try. Formed at the beginning of the month out of two bodies with infuriatingly similar names, the Broadcasting Standards Council (which looked after taste and decency) and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (which dealt with complaints of unfair treatment on air) the new commission has the unhappy task of drawing up a new code of practice on privacy and fair treatment.

I say "unhappy" because the task is impossible. All codes and laws to protect privacy run the risk of concealing injustice. Call it "the Maxwell question". A privacy law might curb unwarranted intrusion but only partly. Such a law is so hard to draw up that even the Conservatives have backed off. Their election manifesto promises merely continuous vigilance on whether legislation is needed.

Both the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party, in contrast, would bring in privacy protection by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. Yet both parties recognise the inherent danger. Each insists that a Freedom of Information Act is a necessary counterbalance. Otherwise Britain will become an even more secret society.

A privacy law could help in protecting some innocent victims of unwanted publicity, such as the man from Brentwood in Essex who was caught on a local council's closed-circuit television as he tried to slash his wrists. He was not pleased months later to see the scene of his anguish replayed for 9.2 million viewers on BBC's *Crime Beat* as an example of how a surveillance system can save lives. The man concerned, with the help of the civil rights organisation, Liberty, is suing Brentwood Council for damages.

Legal deterrent might also reduce the tendency of television crews to follow the police on dawn raids in order to feed the current appetite for what is called "reality TV".

A new threat to increase privacy protection, however, has thrown the broadcasters into a panic. It has come in the form of rumours of the contents of the BSC's new privacy code, even though the commission has been swift to point out that it has been merely gathering suggestions. Its draft code will not be ready for a few months yet.

To the general public, the rumoured BSC proposals will sound like exactly what is needed to protect them from being exposed

or misrepresented on air. A right, for example, to withdraw an interview after it has been filmed or recorded; a right to be informed of any change in the nature of the planned programme; a right to be given the names of everyone else who is taking part, and to be informed of the questions in advance.

Yet to broadcasters these restrictions would kill investigative reporting stone-dead. What's more, if all contributions to any programme had to receive the consent of all participants, there would be no more gripping fly-on-the-wall documentaries such as the BBC's series on the Royal Opera House. Crusading doorsteppers such as Roger Cook would be stopped in their tracks.

One of the curses of a secret society is overprotection, of broadcast particularly. The BSC should note that a serviceable privacy code for broadcasters already exists. Drawn up by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) for commercial television, it deals succinctly with the multifarious dangers of privacy invasion that arise during the broadcaster's working day: hidden microphones, secret cameras, interviews with children and the bereaved, entertainment programmes with dramatised reconstructions, interviews obtained by deception. The ITC is currently considering a number of complaints against Channel 4's stylish satire *Brass Eye*.

The ITC at least has teeth. It can levy fines or even remove a broadcast licence. The BSC has no such powers. For all the high calibre of those who work for it, it remains, like its predecessors, essentially a shoulder for the public to cry on. It ought simply to adopt the ITC's code and get on with its other business.

In the end, all privacy codes fail because every case stands or falls on its merits. Is the intrusion in the public interest? The only all-purpose answer a code can give is "sometimes".

Besides, public grievance against broadcasters is incurable. For some, any filming of grief will be excessive. Many do not accept the facts of copyright law — that the rights to a picture belong with the photographer, and that the rights to private letters, diaries and videos belong with their owner, or his estate, even if he was Frederick West.

The best defence against invasion of privacy is self-defence. Interviewers should not be allowed in without proper credentials and without a consent form stipulating that the interview is to be used only for the single programme in question, and not to be reused as archival material later. The other defence is a thick skin. With exceptions for the bizarre, most of our secrets are the same.



BRENDA MADDOX

## Chasing boys from the Beeb

THE search for a new chief executive for Channel 4 began in earnest this week. The shortlist of candidates drawn up by head-hunters Goddard Kay Rogers is understood to include Michael Jackson, director of television at the BBC and controller of BBC1, and Alan Yentob, the Beeb's director of programmes.

From Channel 4 are John Willis, director of programmes, Stewart Butterfield, director of advertising sales and marketing, and Colin Levanthal, director of acquisitions. Bob Phillips, deputy director general of the BBC, is a possible contender. His case is being pushed by some Channel 4 insiders who believe that his arrival at the station would be less likely to prompt the departure of the popular Willis, who would be virtually certain to exit if the job goes to a "programme man" such as Jackson or Yentob.

There are also understood to be at least two candidates from outside the industry. Greg Dyke has reportedly let it be known that he would



In the frame: Michael Jackson (left) and Alan Yentob

consider the job, although he is not interested in attending an interview. Another contender is thought to be former CBS head Howard Stern.

Each candidate has been asked to write a "manifesto" for Channel 4.

The interview panel is believed to consist of Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of Channel 4, and board members David Plowright and Professor Mary McAleese. The interviews, which began yesterday, are taking place at Dorington Hall, the imposing Derbyshire HQ of British Midland, where Sir Michael is also



chairman. If a candidate is found, the decision could be confirmed on April 28.

### Answers please

THE dry and boring performances of Robin Cook and Michael Portillo which last week kicked off BBC's *Electoral Call* phone-in series (broadcast simultaneously on Radio 4 and BBC1) has prompted soul-searching at the BBC's Millbank bunker in Westminster.

Peter Sissons, who is hosting the series, says: "We have to save the phone-in from

determined politicians who see it as an opportunity, because they have no eye contact with their questioner. To steamroller their way through question after question without giving a proper answer."

### Goodbye then

DOWNSTIZING continues apace, meanwhile, at *The Express*. The latest employees to leave the paper "by mutual agreement" are the arts editor, Mal Peachey, his deputy, Jane Dowle, and arts writer Charlie Porter. Their exodus means the disappearance of the paper's weekly Preview arts section, which at one point was credited with boosting sales on Fridays.

"Mal joined the paper last year on the understanding that it was going upmarket. But the reverse has happened," an insider says.

Peachey's departure is all the more embarrassing for *The Express* since just two weeks ago he was invited to be a judge for the South Bank Show Arts Awards, as part of a determined bid by the programme to include a tabloid journalist on its jury.

THE production team of *They Think It's All Over*, BBC1's highly successful sports quiz, has received scores

of unsolicited letters from young, male viewers asking for a job.

Producer Harry Thompson says that the extra work this is giving him and his lads is making him as sick as a parrot. Making a weekly, topical sporting quiz show is not as easy as it seems, he says.

"They seem to think we do nothing but sit around talking about football all day." Well, don't they?

### Second bite

THE BBC is being offered a TV version of Hugh Walpole's classic novel *Rogue Herries* — by the man who thwarted its efforts to turn it into a TV series five years ago.

Richard Price, head of the Primetime distribution and production company, acquired the rights to the novel in the 1980s. When the English copyright lapsed, the BBC started its own plans to turn the story into a TV series. Not wanting to proceed without the prospect of international sales, the Beeb abandoned its plans on learning that Price held the US and German rights for a further 30 years.

Now, under the latest European copyright rules, Price has reacquired the British rights and is to make a mini-series of two two-hour shows for international screening.

## Ad men caddie for golf

FLUSHED with the discovery of the 21-year-old US Masters champion Tiger Woods, golfers are now turning to advertising to help shake off the sport's stuffy image further and brush up its appeal to a younger, more affluent, even female audience.

The Professional Golfers' Association, golf's ruling body, has hired J Walter Thompson, the agency which created the Andrex puppy, to devise a campaign to coincide with next week's National Golf Week.

While the budget might not match the £40 million paid to Woods by Nike in a massive sponsorship deal, the PGA is using advertising for the first time and has briefed JWT to create a press and poster campaign plus a TV commercial for Sky TV.

Mike Gray, PGA's commercial director, says: "PGA National Golf Week is an initiative to encourage more people to take up golf. We have decided

### ADVERTISING

to seek guidance and expertise from JWT rather than handling our creative work in-house."

DENIS LEARY, the shock US comedian best known in the UK as the frontman for Holsten Pils's advertising, is causing a stir by starting in an uncannily similar series of commercials for the American software giant and Internet service provider, Lotus.

The style of the new Lotus films, by Ogilvy and Mather US, bears a close resemblance to the Holsten ads, originally created by GGT Advertising. As with the Holsten work, Leary is seen fast-talking his way through scripts, spitting out such lines as "If you wanna surf, go to Maui", while the tone is similarly anarchic and cynical. The commercials potentially

contravene the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Committee notes of guidance which dictate that ads resembling other commercials "so closely as to cause confusion" are not acceptable.

A STORM is brewing between the key advertising trade bodies and Equity, the actors' union, over the fees paid to voice-over artists in commercials.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers and the Advertising Film and Videotape Producers' Association are trying to wipe out the discrepancy which allows actors to do voice-overs for rival advertisers, while on-camera actors are ruled out of appearing in rival ads for three years. Equity is digging its heels in and industry insiders say talks have broken down completely.

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- assist with the management of the company.

**The person**

- graduate in a technical discipline; qualified chartered electrical engineer, probably aged 35 to 45, and computer literate
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## Television and the digital revolution

THE TIMES

Business

Every election since 1979, when The Sun endorsed Margaret Thatcher and helped her to Downing Street, The Sun has backed the Conservative Party. They were dubbed the "Tory tabloid" and with up to 18 million readers their support mattered. With The Sun now endorsing Tony Blair, a Labour victory would mean the end of the Tory tabloid's long reign. The paper's readership is now more diverse than ever before, and its influence is growing. The paper's readership is now more diverse than ever before, and its influence is growing. The paper's readership is now more diverse than ever before, and its influence is growing.

### THE 'NEUTRAL' TABLOIDS

Researchers examined news coverage of the 1997 election. The percentage of stories that were neutral or balanced was as follows:

POLICY	News	Commentary	Analysis
Labour	53	33	33
Conservative	33	33	33
Liberal Democrat	33	33	33
Green	33	33	33
Other	33	33	33



Business, education and sports channels are all on offer as TV's future is decided, says Alexandra Frean

# Television and the digital revolution

The future direction of British television will be decided by the Independent Television Commission within the next two months, when it awards the first licences to broadcast commercial digital terrestrial television (DTT).

For the consumer, the arrival of DTT will mean up to 36 new channels by 1998, and better quality sound and pictures. It has been described as the biggest change in television since the introduction of colour nearly 30 years ago.

DTT services may prove attractive to viewers who want extra channels yet are not keen to buy satellite or cable services. According to the City analysts BZW, the market is potentially huge. At the beginning of 1997 some 75 per cent (17.6 million) of homes did not take either cable or satellite services.

Clearly not everybody will be prepared to pay around £300 for the decoder boxes needed to receive DTT, but set-top boxes could become an attractive rental product. Once decoders are built into television sets and the Government sets a deadline for the existing analogue spectrum to be switched off, growth will be exponential.

But what will it all mean to consumers? There are two commercial bids on the table for paid-for DTT services. The favourite is BDB (British Digital Broadcasting), a consortium jointly owned by the broadcasting giants Carlton, Granada and BSkyB. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. The underdog is DTN (Digital Television Network), owned by the cable operator International Cable Tel. Both bidders are promising BBC channels.

BDB's proposed services are: BBC Horizon (nature, science and children's programming); BBC One TV (pop music); BBC Showcase and BBC Style (lifestyle); Sky 1 (family entertainment); Public Eye (dramas and documentaries linked by the theme of law and order); Granada Plus (archive material, plus *Coronation Street*); Granada TV Shopping (teleshopping programmes); Granada Good Life (lifestyle); Granada Sports Club (sports news plus a music service); Carlton Select (archive material plus special events, such as music and football); Carlton Entertainment (children's and adults' entertainment); Carlton Films.

BDB is also offering Sky Movies and The Movie Channel, and Sky Sports, which has exclusive live rights to Premiership football.

DTN is offering a more innovative service. Its channels include: The Money Channel (business and consumer); The Knowledge Network (education); The

British Sports Channel (including news); The ITN Living History Channel (archive footage); Animal Planet (wildlife); The Box (pop music); Travel (holiday programmes); Digital Box Office (pay-per-view films, sport and live events); Turner Classic Movies; MGM Gold (entertainment); Cartoon Network (children's cartoons by day, adult entertainment by night); Metro TV (local television); The Movie Experience.

DTN is also promising to offer text and interactive channels, a home shopping service and a national news service.

A third commercial bid for a separate part of the digital spectrum has also been submitted by the Welsh broadcaster S4C.

The introduction of DTT does not end with commercial services, however. The main broadcasters have all been allocated part of the digital spectrum for free, which they intend to use to offer free-to-air and paid-for services. The BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and the S4C and Teletext will be broadcast on digital terrestrial television and will be free.

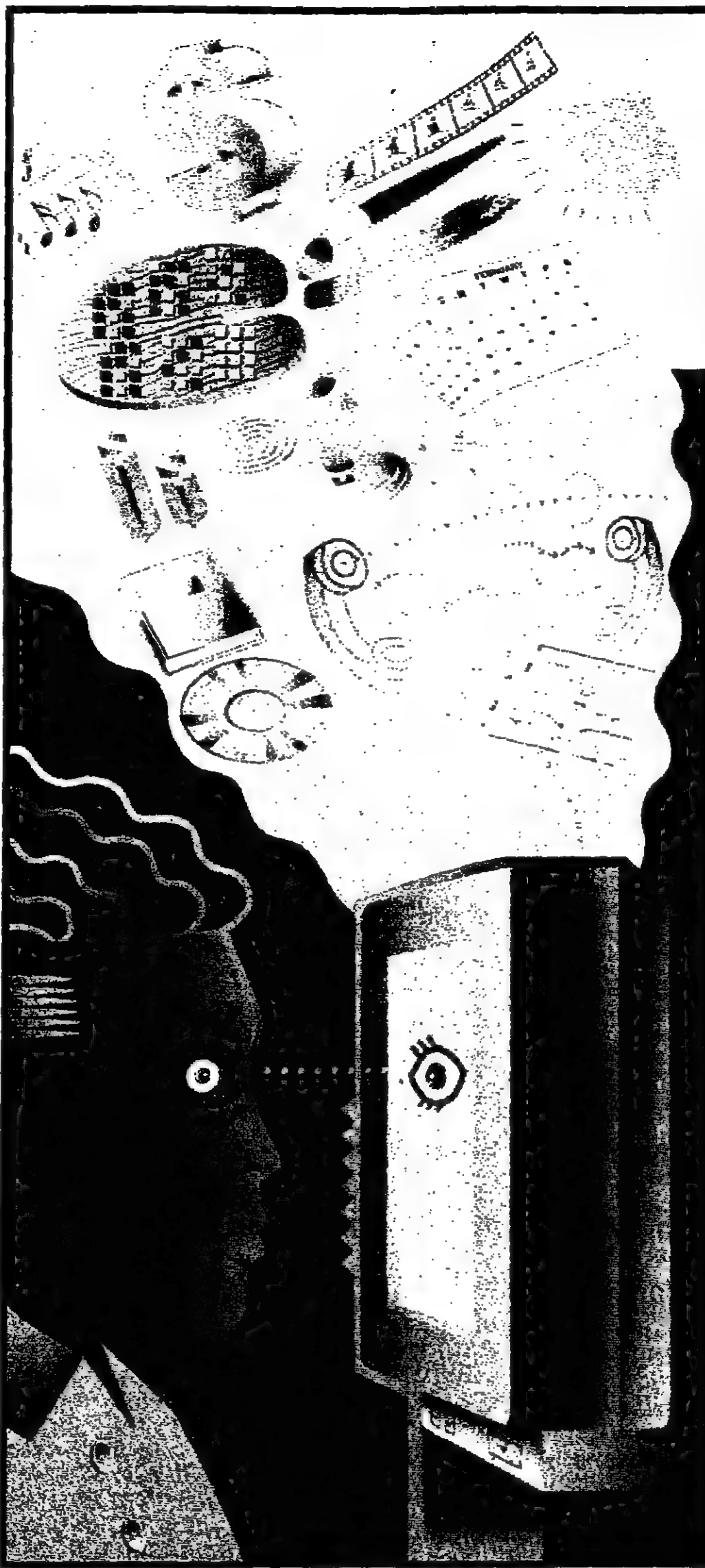
The BBC's digital broadcasts of BBC1 and BBC2 will be in cinema-style wide-screen format. The BBC also plans a 24-hour news channel and for BBC Inform, which will enable viewers to keep up to date with major dramas. ITV and Channel 4 are also planning free and paid-for services.

It would be wrong to believe that programming will be the main criterion used by the ITC in awarding the commercial licence. It is bound by five other criteria, which include the geographical coverage area proposed, the speed of the roll-out of the service, the applicants' ability to establish and maintain the service, the plans for promoting or assisting the acquisition of decoders by viewers and the plans to ensure fair and effective competition in dealings with programme providers.

The ITC is also bound to take into account the extent to which the award of the licence would promote the development of DTT broadcasting in the UK. On this basis, most City analysts believe that the BDB bid will win. BZW believes that BDB will succeed because of its strong programme offering, subscriber management and marketing expertise and the vast resources of its parents. "If BDB does not win the licences, it is unlikely that digital terrestrial services will succeed in the UK," it concludes.

BZW predicts that DTT will be available in 8 per cent of homes within five years, rising to 19 per cent by 2005. CDG's prediction is that more than half of all UK households (11 million) will be receiving digital television in ten years.

It's the biggest change in viewing since colour



Digital TV will mean more programmes, more channels and improved sound and pictures

## Welcome to a night of votes and jokes

Party politics rule as BBC2 mixes election results with comedy

Dumblabys, swingometers and town halls are the stuff that election nights are made of. But this time round, the BBC is planning an alternative to the usual line-up of presenters, politicians and pundits. BBC2's *Election Night Armistice* marks television's first foray into comedy election coverage. Created and presented by the *Friday Night Armistice* team — Armando Iannucci, David Schneider and Peter Baynam — the three-hour show will be going out live on the big night. Highlights include expert analysis by Alan Partridge, *Spin Doctor* Olympics and an inflatable Paddy Ashdown.

"It's based on our experience of previous elections and how people like to make a party of it," says Armando Iannucci. "Elections are a strange combination of being something that affects your life for the next five years, but also something that's quite festive."

MPs, journalists and an audience will join them in the studio, with live links around the country and pre-recorded sketches. "We'll be doing things like torturing a Middle England family, because the whole election has been based around their views," says Iannucci. "And we'll be designating an election-free zone in Manchester, where people can go to recycle roses and play Guess the Car Part with Jeremy Clarkson."

But they say, it won't all be spoof. The idea is to mix comedy with the results, as they come in, and to let the programme go in whatever direction events take it. "They will be genuine results, not made up ones," says Iannucci.

"We've got Valerie Singleton with a bouncy House of Commons which will fill up with people in red, blue and yellow T-shirts, indicating which way the votes are going. That's all the analysis you need really."

Elsewhere on election night, BBC1 and ITV will be battling for viewers with the usual marathon results programmes. Channel 4 is opting out of the election, screening a film instead.

There is no pressure on them to mock politicians equally

previous TV eras. It wasn't until 1959 that the BBC and ITV dared to do any election coverage, let alone satire, so fearful were they of imparting bias. *That Was The Week That Was*, the cult 1960s satire show, was taken off air almost a year before the 1964 election. Hugh Green, the then BBC Director-General, reasoned that "you can't be fair with laughter".

But broadcasters, and especially the BBC, are still cautious about comedy during elections. Harry Enfield has been prohibited from doing his *Tory Boy* character on *Newsnight*. The *Election Night Armistice* team, though, is relatively relaxed about the impartiality issue. Despite strict BBC guidelines, they say there is no pressure on them to mock politicians equally. "We're under no obligations," says Iannucci. "I think we'll go for whatever prominent issues come up. It depends who makes the biggest mess of the campaign."

MILLY JENKINS

At every election since 1979, when *The Sun* endorsed Margaret Thatcher and helped her into Downing Street, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Express* have backed the Conservatives and rubbished the Labour Party. They were dubbed the "Tory tabloids" and with up to 18 million voters reading them every day, their support mattered.

With *The Sun* now endorsing Tony Blair, *The Express* (under new chief executive Clive Hollick, a Labour life peer, and only *The Daily Mail* showing any real enthusiasm for dumping on Labour — and that mainly because of its stance on Europe — those 18 million voters are now being exposed to the fairest newspaper coverage of any election since 1955. It may become the first for decades in which the conduct of the press is not itself an issue.

The significance of *The Sun's* backing for Blair was shown yesterday in the spin that was put on the headlines

## All's fair in tabloid politics

on his BBC statement on Europe's common fisheries policy. "Labour changes tack," said the *Daily Mail* (circulation 2.1 million) as it reported that Mr Blair had performed his "sixth U-turn" of the election in matching John Major on protecting Britain's fishermen.

*The Sun* (circulation 4 million) put a very different spin on the story — and very different from how it would have reported a similar statement by James Callaghan, Michael Foot or Neil Kinnock. "I'll scupper EU over fish war," says Blair, was *The Sun's* headline as it reported that he had "vowed" to bring the EU to a halt to protect Britain's fishing fleet. Apart from its opinion polling at this election, MORI is also analysing every election article published in the national newspapers and studying

whether they are negative or positive to Major and Blair and to Labour, the Tories and the Liberal Democrats.

Its study of more than 2,000 articles published between April 1-11, made by subsidiary Test Research, confirms the significance of the fairer reporting in *The Sun* and *The Express*.

Seven in ten of the reports on Labour policies in *The Sun* and *The Express* were either neutral or had a favourable slant — as well as 66 per cent in the *Daily Mail*, 81 per cent in the *Daily Star* (sister paper

### PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur



of *The Express*) and 94 per cent in *The Mirror*.

Given that fairer deal from the tabloids, another gain for Labour in 1997 is that its policies have been the subject of many more reports than Tory policies — 1,327 against 778, an advantage of 71 per cent — and *The Sun* has been more hostile to Major than to Blair.

Of *Sun* reports on Tory policies, 21 per cent were strongly negative against only 5 per cent for Labour. Six per cent of reports on the Tories were strongly positive com-

pared with 14 per cent on Labour. For Labour campaign strategists, the significance of the fairer reporting in the five daily tabloids is their vast readership of 16 million among the 22 million less affluent C2DEs, half the nation's voters. One in two newspaper readers, moreover, reads *The Sun* or *The Mirror*.

They will be delighted by an analysis — an innovation in studies of the press and elections — of the impact of newspaper reports on different social classes. Only among the affluent ABEs has Tony Blair received more negative exposure than John Major. Meanwhile, every social class has been exposed to more favourable coverage of Blair than Major, and particularly the C2DEs (where Margaret Thatcher had so many admirers), where Blair has won three times as much

favourable coverage as Major. MORI has also compared the key issues for voters against the key stories for editors and politicians. For newspapers the main issues have been taxation (6th for voters), the economy (7th), education (2nd) and Europe (8th). Apart from education, the politicians appear to be concentrating on issues which do not preoccupy the voters.

Research by media analysts CMS:Precis shows that the Tories improved their performance in the week ending April 8.

Negative coverage of Major dropped from 50 per cent to 40 per cent, and for the first time Blair got more negative than positive coverage (31 per cent to 26 per cent).

Sleaze was overtaken as the biggest issue by the economy and education, even after Martin Bell announced that he was standing against Neil Hamilton.

● The MORI/Press Research survey is sponsored by Shandwick, the PR consultancy.

### THE NEUTRAL TABLOIDS

Researchers examined news stories relating to policies and graded them from -2 to +2 according to their negative/positive bias. The percentage of stories in each scale was used to calculate each paper's bias index towards each party

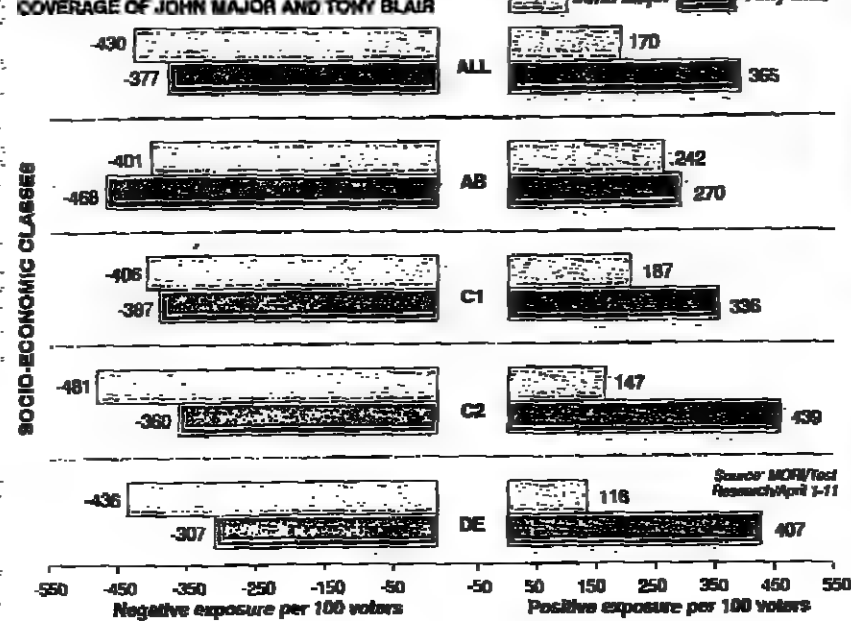
TORY POLICIES	Cuttings	No.	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Index
Mirror	53	7	42	34	24	0	0	-1.18
Sun	33	4	27	3	40	24	8	-2.1
Star	32	4	18	13	43	26	0	-1.7
Express	48	6	8	22	60	10	0	-2.9
Mail	58	7	9	10	59	22	0	-6
Telegraph	104	13	2	8	76	10	4	8
FT	76	10	1	17	74	7	1	-10
Guardian	127	16	2	17	75	6	0	-14
Independent	134	17	2	16	78	6	0	-14
Times	112	14	3	18	62	13	4	-3

LABOUR POLICIES	Cuttings	No.	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Index
Mirror	70	5	0	6	64	19	11	35
Sun	86	6	5	22	33	28	14	22
Star	53	4	2	17	71	8	4	-7
Express	110	8	0	25	64	5	1	-28
Mail	98	7	5	29	61	5	0	-34
Telegraph	213	16	0	13	79	8	0	-5
FT	137	10	1	16	78	5	0	-9
Guardian	187	14	5	8	72	19	0	-8
Independent	181	14	1	8	72	19	0	-8
Times	192	14	5	16	66	13	0	-13

Source: MORI/Press Research April 1-11

### THE PRESS, THE ELECTION AND THE WINNING SPIN

VOTERS' EXPOSURE TO POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE COVERAGE OF JOHN MAJOR AND TONY BLAIR



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Netherlands	(DF)	776	46%	428	224	130
Switzerland	(SF)	800	35%	445	232	135
Rest of Europe	(E)	494	n/a	287	116.5	70.04

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CHANGING TIMES







# THE TIMES

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1997

Fiscal squeezes 'unsustainable'

## Euro doubts push pound to five-year high

By ALASDAIR MURRAY in FRANKFURT and OLIVER AUGUST in LONDON

THE pound soared to its highest level for nearly five years yesterday as the fore-runner to Europe's central bank voiced new doubts over Europe's monetary union.

Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute, said the chances of the single currency proceeding on schedule in 1999 were only "significantly above 50 per cent". He also buttressed growing concern about the status of the single European currency by confirming that the institute would not insist on candidates to join the new euro meeting all the tests laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

The pound was the main beneficiary on the markets, where traders assume it will not join in from the start. This puts further strain on Britain's monetary policy, since any rise in interest rates to forestall domestic inflation is likely to push sterling up further and hit UK manufacturers.

Sterling breached the 100 mark on its trade-weighted index for the first time since Black Wednesday in 1992 as it continued to storm past the world's other big currencies. By the Bank of England close, it had regained its 1990 par value at 100.1. Sterling pushed up from 2,790 marks to DM2,813 in London. It was also strong against the dollar, which dropped 0.34 cents to \$1.6257 after news of a small rise in US inflation.

The EMI said that too many

EU countries are relying on unsustainable measures to cut government debt to levels demanded by the Maastricht Treaty. He said delay in implementing a single currency "could wreck the whole programme" by allowing member states to lose this painful budgetary discipline.

In its third annual report, the EMI also launched a stinging attack on the European Union's "dismal" job creation record, warning that unemployment could pose a serious threat to the success of a single currency. It urged cuts in labour costs and labour market reforms. Otherwise,

the EMI argues, divergent unemployment records could place a major strain on the single currency.

The EMI, which is due to become the European Central Bank at the beginning of 1999, is charged with preparing a report early next year on the suitability of candidates for monetary union.

M. Lamfalussy suggested that it would be taking a broad view, despite warnings from Britain and Germany that the convergence tests contained in the Maastricht Treaty must be strictly applied for a single currency to succeed.

He said that the Maastricht Treaty allows room for some deviation from the conver-

gence targets, although he added that the sustainability of an individual government's fiscal position would need to be proven.

M. Lamfalussy refused to be drawn about which countries might fail to meet the criteria, despite heavy criticism about the long-term durability of measures adopted by countries such as Italy and Belgium to reduce their deficit and debt ratios.

M. Lamfalussy said that final decisions would only be taken in a year's time on the basis of data for the whole of 1997.

Nick Stamenkovic, an economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said: "The EMI's latest annual report has raised concern about the fiscal position in Europe, in general, and in Germany."

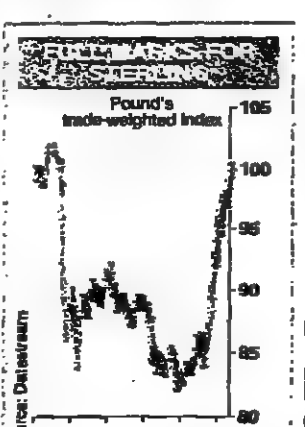
Jörg Krämer at Merrill Lynch said: "The Bundesbank should have started to hike interest rates in the autumn of last year."

The pound's continued rise will add to the headaches of British exporters who already complain about being squeezed out of international markets at current sterling prices.

An immediate UK interest rate increase, which would boost sterling further, looks less likely after the sterling hike. Figures for producer prices, released on Monday, show that sterling's recovery last autumn has already subdued any inflation pressures from industry.

City analysts said that, whoever is Chancellor after the election will want to protect exporters from further damaging exchange rate movements, hoping that domestic inflationary pressures will be choked off by the rising pound.

Further rises in sterling would, however, pose a problem for Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, if he reached the Treasury. Market traders assume that, in order to establish his credibility, Mr Brown would raise base rates a week after taking office, following his first head-to-head meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.



Being Americanised, page 33



Mary Quant, whose cosmetics empire makes royalties of about £160 million a year

## Quant to join House of Fraser board

By JON ASHWORTH

MARY QUANT, the fashion icon who put the swing in the King's Road, is lending her charms to House of Fraser, the dowdy old dame of high street retailing.

Ms Quant, 63, becomes a non-executive director of the department stores group, which takes in Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones. Her first shop, Bazaar, opened in Chelsea in 1955 and gave birth to the era of mini-skirts, white PVC raincoats, and skinny-rib polo-neck sweaters.

There are those who suspect that House of Fraser is out of step with the times. The company has struggled to find its way since the Fayed brothers unleashed it on the stock market three years ago. The shares, floated at 180p, were up 5p at 164p yesterday, before tomorrow's publication of the 1996 results. House of Fraser announced in January that it was to cut 1,000 jobs and clear out unwanted stock in an attempt to become competitive.

Ms Quant's arrival could herald a much-needed face-lift. Her cosmetics empire sells through more than 200 outlets in Japan alone, and makes about £160 million a year in royalties.

Brian McCowan, chairman of House of Fraser, said: "Her experience of the fashion and retail business worldwide, gained over many years, will be of immense value and help to House of Fraser, a leader in UK fashion and cosmetics."

Ms Quant issued a statement, saying: "House of Fraser has progressive ideas for the growth of their stores, and I look forward to making a positive contribution to the group's future success."

Pennington, page 31

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FTSE 100	4285.8 (+36.1)
Yield	3.77%
FTSE All share	2054.18 (+14.18)
Nikkei	17833.59 (+241.12)
Dow Jones	6540.80 (+88.70)
S&P Composite	732.33 (+8.80)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 1/8% (8 1/8%)
Yield	7.09% (7.17%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	6 1/8% (6 1/8%)
Life long gilt	10 1/8% (10 1/8%)
Future (Jun)	10 1/8% (10 1/8%)

## STERLING

New York	
\$	1.6255 (1.6203)
£	1.6255 (1.6227)
DM	2.8118 (2.7884)
FF	6.4778 (6.4047)
SP	2.3918 (2.3825)
Yen	205.34 (205.00)
£ index	100.1 (99.4)

US \$/£	
London	1.7236 (1.7308)
DM	3.0254 (3.0210)
SP	1.4698 (1.4710)
Yen	128.22 (128.58)
£ index	100.1 (100.0)

Tokyo close Yen 126.16

MOTHER BEAR	
Brant 15-day (Jun)	914.80 (\$18.40)

GOLD	
London close	\$341.75 (\$348.55)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Mutual friends

A majority of members of Bristol & West and Northern Rock yesterday voted in favour of their societies abandoning mutualism, although there was anger at both meetings. Page 30

## British boost

Peugeot, the French car maker, gave British industry a £100 million vote of confidence by announcing that it will build a new supermini in Coventry, safeguarding almost 3,000 jobs. Page 35

## BT investors back £13bn MCI deal

By ERIC REGULY

BT MOVED a step closer to becoming a global telecommunications powerhouse yesterday when shareholders overwhelmingly approved the £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long-distance phone company.

BT said that about 98.5 per cent of shareholders voted in favour. The enlarged company, to be called Concert, awaits regulatory approval in America and Europe. MCI shareholders approved the deal earlier this month.

Concert will emerge as the world's fourth largest telecoms group, behind NTT of Japan, AT&T of America and Deutsche Telekom. BT and MCI have an estimated 6 per cent share of the global market. But outside the US and UK only 17 per cent of the market is open to competition, a figure that probably will rise to more than 90 per cent by the

turn of the century. Sir Iain Vallance, the BT chairman who is to become co-chairman of Concert, said: "Were we to do nothing more than hold on to that 6 per cent, Concert would have revenues of £34 billion within a few years."

BT has owned 20 per cent of MCI since 1994 and is paying a premium of about 30 per cent for the rest. BT has said the merger will initially dilute earnings by about 5 per cent and will yield savings of £15 billion in the first five years by combining certain operations.

Analysts are divided about the merger benefits. Robert Fleming, the broker, said it is sceptical about Concert's forecasts of a 6 per cent annual dividend rise when severe competition is slashing the prices of international calls. BT closed 2 1/2 p up, at 440 1/2.

Being Americanised, page 33

## Brokers face levy on society deals

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

CRESTCO, the operator of Crest, the Stock Exchange's paperless trading system, is to penalise stockbrokers who ignore its attempts to avert a potential settlement crisis brought on by windfall shares from five demutualising building societies.

Last month CrestCo announced it would allow stockbrokers to batch 100 deals in converting societies into one trade. Yesterday it said that from Monday, the date of the Alliance & Leicester flotation, it would charge £1 for every unbatched deal put through Crest on top of its normal 75p levy. A spokesman said the "cost disincentive" would be increased if the broking community did not comply.

The move follows confirmation yesterday that 1.1 million of its members had opted to hold free shares in the company in

certificate form. If repeated in the flotations of the Halifax, Woolwich, Norwich Union and Northern Rock it would create 8.7 million new share certificates. This would pose a severe strain on Crest, which works best with electronic nominee systems that dispense with certificates.

Shares in Alliance & Leicester are forecast to reach between 460p and 480p at a series of auctions to institutional investors starting this Friday. Analysts are waiting to see how they perform before pricing the remaining demutualisations.

The Stock Exchange has prevented an unofficial grey market in demutualisation shares on the grounds that they are not offers in the way of the privatisations of the 1980s.

Mutuality ended, page 30

Formal move by watchdog on disciplinary proceedings

## SFA to detail complaints on Fidelity

By ROBERT MILLER

A SENIOR City watchdog is to take the unprecedented step of detailing the number of complaints received by investors about Fidelity Brokerage, the retail stockbroking arm of the world's largest fund manager.

Last October, the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), which polices brokers and futures traders, took the highly unusual step of banning Fidelity Brokerage, which has 30,000 clients, from signing up new investors until the end of January.

The ban was then extended to the end of this month. Last night SFA

officials said that no decision had yet been taken on whether the sanctions on new business would be lifted within the next two weeks.

In the forthcoming issue of its Briefing magazine the SFA will set out in detail the complaints received from aggrieved Fidelity clients, many of whom suffered losses because of administrative mistakes and have been compensated. The SFA, which regulates 1,350 City firms, says that in the first nine months of its current financial year to the end of December nearly a third of the 634 complaints received concerned Fidelity Brokerage. The SFA has now taken formal steps

"to initiate disciplinary proceedings" against the broking firm. This could result in action being taken against some senior individuals. More likely, however, is that the firm will incur a fine based on the time it has taken to clear up the problems that began last May when it switched to a new computer and administrative system at the same time as launching a major advertising campaign for new clients. Many dividend cheques failed to be credited to the right bank accounts at the correct time.

The SFA action against Fidelity Brokerage is an embarrassment for its parent company, owned by the Ameri-

can family of Edward C. Johnson III. It has sought to build a worldwide reputation for prudent fund management on behalf of millions of pension fund clients and investors.

In financial terms the SFA ban has meant that Fidelity Brokerage has just missed out on the rush at the end of tax year to invest in personal equity plans. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this season was one of the busiest on record.

Phil West, a Fidelity Brokerage manager, said yesterday: "The SFA review procedure has not been completed and we do not want to prejudice the issue. However, we are pleased with the progress made so far."

## ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR LIFE ASSURANCE?

There are many Banks, Building Societies, and Insurance Companies offering to arrange for you their own company's policies.

At Direct Life & Pension Services we are Independent Financial Advisers. We don't supply just one company's policies but are able to provide a range of policies from many different companies.

**This in turn means that the illustrations we obtain are amongst the most competitive available, every time we quote.**

Consider the illustrations below for monthly premiums, on a 20 year, £100,000 level term assurance.

Male & Female both aged 35 next birthday and non-smokers		Male & Female both aged 45 next birthday and non-smokers	
Barclays Life	35.40	Commercial Union	75.00
Commercial Union	36.00	Nationwide Life	83.50
Nationwide Life	37.81	Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	41.58	Friends Provident	88.99
Black Horse Life	46.38	Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	48.00	Scottish Amicable	108.00
Scottish Life	58.51	Scottish Life	137.40
We can arrange this for	25.02	We can arrange this for	53.30

PLA does not regulate these non-regulated term assurances. We do however offer advice on regulated and non-regulated life assurances.

So if you are considering taking out a life assurance, decreasing term (mortgage protection) or critical illness plan and would like 'Independent Financial Advice' phone us at local rates on

**0345 419410**

**direct**  
Life & Pension Services

Direct Life & Pension Services Ltd.  
Direct Life & Pension Services Limited is an Appointed Representative of Ward Mortgages Limited who are Independent Financial Advisers regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.  
Registered in England no. 2813275



BY CAROLINE MERRELL AND GAVIN LUMSDEN

The society, which will have a market capitalisation of £1

**Richard Holland, left, chief executive of Boosey & Hawkes, and Peter Austen, finance director, after the music publisher and instrument maker reported a 24.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.7 million for 1996. A final dividend of 7.43p makes a total of 9.34p**

By ROBERT MILLER

The ABF performance benchmarks are made up of two stages. The first comprises a mixture of interest rates available in the professional money markets and the per-

As well as investing in UK fixed-interest bonds and other sterling instruments, NatWest's mandate from ABF also allowed it to invest in overseas deposits and bonds denominated in other major currencies such as the yen, dollar and mark.

**BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY**  
**INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT**

"I recognise that they did not get the green dowry, but that has been overtaken by the regulatory process."

These companies opted to maintain independence under statutory status when the water industry was overhauled by the Water Act 1973 that led to the creation of the ten large authorities. Those authorities were sold in 1989 with tax concessions to allow for capital expenditure on infrastructure.

## BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

**BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM**

Roger Pedder, chairman of Clarks, said the sale of the factory outlets did not necessarily take the group any closer to a long-awaited flotation. "It is a much bigger issue outside the business than within," he said. A flotation might take place if, for example, Clarks wanted to make a large overseas acquisition.

January 31, Clarks' operating profit was £400,000 after a £30 million restructuring charge last year covered the closure of five factories and around 1,400 jobs.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

[illegible]

## LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

**Company.**

The effective instrument appointing a proxy and any power of attorney or other authority under which it is executed (as a duly certified copy of any such power or authority) if the Company is a corporation; or

(c) The Company's registered office or principal place of business, as shown on its certificate of incorporation or articles of association, if the meeting is being held at the meeting.

**CHARITY COMMISSION**

Charity The Charity Commission for England and Wales, 1, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2BQ, United Kingdom. Telephone: 071-976 3636

**Scheme**

Reference No. SC44(2)(Ldn)

The Charity Commission have made a Scheme for the following:

A copy can be seen for the next month at the offices of the Charity Commission, 1, Whitehall Place, Great Peter Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3JR

A copy can also be obtained by request stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, c/o Mr J. A. Lacey, 1, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2BQ quoting the reference above.

**MAGISTRATES**

Magistrates' Court, 100, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 071-837 2200

**NAME**

Name of the company, firm or individual concerned in the proceedings

**NAMES**

Names of the parties to the proceedings

**TITLE**

Title of the proceedings

**FILE NO.**

File number of the proceedings

**DATE**

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**ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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**INTERNET**

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**FTP**

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## LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of  
Administrative Receiver  
of  
V&K Partnership Limited  
Registered number: 02112124  
Nature of business: Architectural  
Technical  
Trade classification: 7420  
Date of appointment of administrative receiver: 28 April 1997  
Name of the person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Midland Bank Plc  
Name of administrative receiver(s): Office Holder Nkr Michael David George 3260, Kevin James David Ellis 8722  
Address: N°1 London Bridge, London SE1 9AF

[illegible]

**NOTICE** is the  
the Creditors  
to the  
before 27th  
their names  
to be particu-  
claimed and  
addresses of  
to the  
to the  
Hornes, PO Box  
Brighton, BN1  
to be  
regarded by  
the said Liquid-  
holders, or  
solid, or  
claims at  
such as  
in default  
credited from  
distribution  
Dated 14th  
Andrew White

[illegible]

hereby given that the above named  
 person is authorized to receive  
 on my behalf any and all notices  
 in 1977 to and from all persons  
 at addresses and at the address  
 of their debts or creditors.  
 and such solicitors (if any)  
 (04541, Nite Street,  
 LA the Liquidator  
 and, if no  
 address is  
 known, are by their  
 community, to come  
 to the time and place as  
 in such notice,  
 and to be bound, if they  
 do not, before such  
 Liquidator

London SE1 6JQ

Notice of appointment of  
Administrative Receiver  
VGN Ltd  
Registered number 0204999  
Notice of appointment of  
Administrative Receiver  
Trade classification: 999  
Registered number: 0411999  
Notice of appointment of  
Administrative Receiver  
land Bank plc  
administrative  
receivers at Office Holder Mrs  
Michaela David Gough 222  
222  
Address: New London Bridge  
London SE1 6JQ

DEYTON LIMITED  
(to Liquidation)  
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER  
I, J. Schipman, A.C.A. of Latham,  
Chartered Accountant,  
appointed Liquidator of the  
above company on 11th  
April 1997  
I, J. Schipman, Liquidator

NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF  
CREDITORS  
BECALMOVE LIMITED  
11th April 1997

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that the meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The George Hotel, 117 Strand, London WC2R 2BB, on **Monday, 12th April 1997 at 10.30** for the purpose of examining the statement of affairs and the Insolvency Act 1986. A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the company's registered office, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YF, and at the company's office in charge in London at 101 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on the business days preceding the above meeting.

Dated 11th April 1997  
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
G. SERRA, Director

## Shoe group's £80m deal comes after restructuring loss

## MEPC buys Clark factory outlets

**MEPC, the property company, is to pay £80 million for the factory outlets business built up by C & J Clark, the privately**

Roger Peldier, chairman of Clark's, said the sale of the factory outlets did not necessarily take place at a disadvantage to long-awaited flotation. "It is a much bigger issue than the business than what we said. A flotation might take

Clark's £30 million restructuring charge last year covered the closure of five factories and around 1,400 jobs.

**THE TIME**

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**ALMOST** 10 years in LucasVarley yesterday, as the electronics giant that it is paying a dividend.

The company, with a £3.1 billion turnover, intends to pay its dividend by buying back shares. This year it plans to pay 10 per cent of book value of its shares.

LucasVarley plans to change some name because of the confusion of the two businesses.

Neil Arnold, director, said LucasVarley was planning to make a total return to its shareholders. Dividends, of about 10 per cent, This is 50 per cent of the £100 million paid out if it has the 7p-a-share a year by LucasVarley, the British half of the company.

The dividend is a share for the year 1998. For the year 1999, the dividend will be 10 pence.

## N Bro aband the h

N BROWN, the ping company, this broke off talks about buying it mail under arm done its quest acquisition.

The company tax profit of £37.1 million for the year to March 1, £31.2 million a Sales grew 21.5% to £280.5 million. A large increase in customers. In weeks of this year a further 15 per cent.

Sir David Alliman, said he is in making acquisitions in their own sake. He has bought Fri said, "but we would if it were to improve holder value." He added that small acquisitions are still Earnings per from 14.42p to 17.2p dividend of 4.8p paid on July 25, year 6.8p (5.7p).

Temp

**McCa**  
**Servi**  
SERVISAI

Mr McCann, who was said to have left his other business He leaves with sh currently worth £5 The move come weeks after the con



□ European fears for the Old Lady □ Spending building society windfalls □ Elephant-hunting at House of Fraser

## Referendum Party Eddie

AS BEFTTS an organisation whose main proponents include Geoffrey Boycott and Frederick Forsyth, the level of debate put forward by the Referendum Party has rarely risen much above the waterline. After all this droning on about the influence of Brussels, Sir James and his crew should sing a different tune. How about domination by Frankfurt?

If ammunition is needed it was provided yesterday by the annual report of the European Monetary Institute. In Referendum terms, this could be categorised as a German-based body barking instructions about how everyone should run their economies so they can fit in with some Euro masterplan to let our sovereign currencies be subsumed by the mighty mark. In reality, the EMI is telling off Germany as much as any other country. But even vociferous Europeans can see a worrying issue arising about the role of the Bank of England after monetary union.

As the EMI made quite clear yesterday, it will be the body in charge of monetary policy across Europe. It will have a relatively small staff, so it will devolve responsibility for operating monetary policy within the individual European states to the

central banks. But doesn't that mean that the grand old Bank of England will be turned into little more than the banking equivalent of a McDonald's franchise? It will hire the staff, cook the burgers and serve them, but the recipe will be written by Frankfurt. Is this a dignified role for our central bank?

And just when the mandarins at Threadneedle Street thought prospects could not get any bleaker, along comes Alastair Darling, Labour's man in the City. Brandishing the Treasury Select Committee report into the Baring scandal — which accused the Bank of being too close to the financial institutions it regulates — Mr Darling appears to want to shake up financial regulation in a way that does not favour the Bank. Mr Darling is in favour of the twin peaks approach that does away with the old fashioned division of financial institutions into banks and securities firms and instead frames regulation by reference to the intended customer. Selling to

the general public will be heavily regulated, but selling to professional investors will have a lighter touch. Mr Darling is also in favour of getting rid of the self-regulatory organisations and giving more power to the Securities and Investments Board. In his vision there will be only one regulator in town and that looks like being the SIB not the Bank.

The Bank has been a key influence on British finance for 303 years. In the next five, it could lose most of its power. It's enough to make Eddie George vote for the Referendum Party.

### Pinning hopes on a nation of parasites

HAS that longed-for feeling of financial wellbeing at last bathed Middle England in a golden sweat? Or have we just become a nation of serial parasites?

Up to 16 million people, subject to some extravagant double-counting, will soon be able to make their choice as recipients of



the windfalls of demutualisation. Judging by the latest returns from Alliance & Leicester Building Society, first of the current batch, a quarter of them might take the cash straight away.

When Abbey National pioneered conversion, amid much scepticism, only a quarter had sold after 12 months. Surveys suggested only 10-15 per cent of the customers of Halifax et al would have nothing to do with the stock market.

Faster sales make wonderful news for financial institutions, many of which feel obliged to stock up on the shares as soon as possible. If they can buy lots of

A&L via auctions of unwanted shares, they will not after all have to pay through the nose.

Forecasts of early prices are sagging, making it less than certain that A&L will leap straight into the FT-SE 100 share index. That is bad news for the majority who want to stay on even if, as one broker tastefully claimed, the chance of A&L avoiding takeover is "as likely as a 2nd lieutenant surviving the First World War".

The more pressing issue is what pocketers do with their cash. When the economy seemed to sag last year, some economists hoped windfalls would boost consumer spending, perhaps by paying down credit card debt to replenish spending power. Buoyant consumer spending is now a bit of a worry, so other economists predict that windfalls will not be spent. Even shares cashed immediately, they argue, will be deposited in other building societies to earn new windfalls.

Such mercenary behaviour may well prevail over the desire

to buy goods now. Unless Gordon Brown courts loathing by taxing this other windfall, as he probably should, the economy will have to wait for the shock.

### How quaint to choose Quant

DEBENHAMS has Jasper Conran and Philip Treacy. Dorothy Perkins is in partnership with Clements Ribeiro and even dear old Marks & Spencer is linked with Ghost and Betty Jackson. So who is House of Fraser inviting on to its board in the hope of attracting the fashionable younger audience it needs to revitalise its flagging stores? Mary Quant.

The cloud that engulfed House of Fraser last year is not lifting, despite a management shake-out instituted by John "Texas" Coleman. You could go elephant hunting in many of the stores without hitting a customer and tomorrow's results are not likely to inspire. If sales for the year

have risen in money terms, then it will be little more than a mirage and they are sure to have shrunk when inflation is subtracted. Massive provisions may have removed the stock problem — but only in accounting terms.

So what is to be done? Fraser is not winning the customers it needs and Sixties star Ms Quant cannot be relied on to attract them. The store portfolio is being pruned but if the product mix is not right, does it matter? Hopes of a bid have faded, along with the fortunes of the City's favourite bidder, Sears. The market should have spotted it was being sold a pup when Fraser was floated. As they say in Taiton, never accept a present from Mohamed Al Fayed.

### Danish best

STANDARD & POORS, the US credit analyst, has assigned an unshakable AAA rating to loans raised to finance the Baltic's Oresund link between Sweden and Denmark. How different from our own dear Eurotunnel link between Britain and France. But the Oresundskonsortiet loan is guaranteed by governments at each end, an arrangement banned from the Channel lest it led to cost overruns. How wise.

## LucasVarity policy change rattles market

By PAUL DURMAN

ALMOST ten million shares in LucasVarity changed hands yesterday as the brakes and car electrics group confirmed that it is cutting its annual dividend.

The company, formed from a £3.2 billion merger in September, intends to supplement its dividend by regularly buying back shares in the market. This year it plans to buy in 3 per cent, or about 44 million, of its shares.

LucasVarity said it has no plans to change its cumbersome name because completion of the integration of the two businesses is of greater priority.

Neil Arnold, finance director, said LucasVarity expects to make a total distribution to shareholders, including dividends, of about £150 million. This is 50 per cent more than the £100 million it would have paid out if it had maintained the 7p-a-share dividend paid last year by Lucas Industries, the British half of the combine.

The dividend will fall to 4.5p a share for the year to January 1998. For the period just

ended, LucasVarity will pay a dividend of 2.25p on July 1.

Investment funds that seek income are expected to sell their holdings in LucasVarity, or risk falling short of their income target. The company's shares closed 2½p lower at 198p yesterday, having initially run as high as 206p.

The change in dividend policy is driven by tax considerations. LucasVarity does not make enough money in the UK to make full use of the relief for advance corporation tax.

LucasVarity's first results since its merger showed an operating profit of £336 million on sales of £4.6 billion — a 5 per cent rise on the pro forma total from Lucas and Varity separately in the previous year. Pre-tax profits for the year to January 31, before restructuring costs, were £282 million.

The group has set aside £250 million for restructuring that has cost 3,000 jobs at a cost of £105 million. It is seeking buyers for 13 businesses. The changes will save £120 million a year, although the full benefit will not be felt for two years.

### N Brown abandons the hunt

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

N BROWN, the home shopping company that last month broke off talks with Sears about buying its Freemans mail order arm, has abandoned its quest for a large acquisition.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £37.1 million in the year to March 1, compared to £31.2 million a year earlier. Sales grew 21.5 per cent to £280.5 million, helped by a large increase in first-time customers. In the first six weeks of this year, sales grew a further 15 per cent.

Sir David Alliance, chairman, said he is not interested in making acquisitions for their own sake. "We could have bought Freemans," he said, "but we would only do it if it were to improve shareholder value." However, he added that smaller bolt-on acquisitions are still likely.

Earnings per share rose from 14.42p to 17.03p. A final dividend of 4.8p (4.6p) will be paid on July 25, giving a full-year 6.8p (5.7p).

Tempus, page 32

### Reckitt puts the record straight

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

RECKITT & COLMAN, the household products multinational, has been forced to amend its 1995 accounts after objections were raised by the Financial Reporting Review Panel.

Reckitt initially overvalued its £1 billion acquisition of America's L&F Products at the end of 1994 and then subsequently cut the fair value in its accounts by £81 million to £726 million. But it failed to explain this to shareholders.

The review panel ruled that Reckitt had failed to comply with FRS6, the accounting standard covering acquisitions and mergers. In doing so, it had also failed to comply fully with requirements of the Companies Act 1985.

The panel has powers to take companies to court and oblige them to issue new accounts, but agreed that Reckitt could issue a note making good the omission in its 1995 accounts with its 1996 accounts. These were sent to shareholders yesterday.

### McCann departs in Servisair shake-up

By FRASER NELSON

SERVISAIR, the aircraft maintenance company that joined the stock market two years ago, has announced a boardroom shake-up and the departure of Tony McCann as executive chairman.

Mr McCann, who was paid £133,000 for a three-day week, was said to have left to pursue his other business interests. He leaves with share options currently worth £570,000.

The move comes just two weeks after the company part-

ed company with David Collier, who only 18 months previously had been appointed development manager — an appointment which, according to Mr McCann, "just didn't work out".

Mr McCann, 56, will now be replaced by John Willis, currently chief executive. A replacement for Mr Willis is expected to be named by the summer. The company's shares gained 9p yesterday to close at 453p.



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**TWA**



STOCKMARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# American inflation figures cheer UK and US markets

EVIDENCE that inflationary pressures are easing cheered investors on both sides of the Atlantic. In London, prices wiped out Monday's losses to close just below their best levels of the day.

The FT-SE 100 index finished up 35.1 at 4,286.8, encouraged by a near 100-point rally in the Dow Jones industrial average at the start of trading in New York following a smaller than expected rise in US inflation.

Trading in London, however, remained thin with just 787.9 million shares changing hands. Early attention focused on BT, 2½p firmer at 440½p, as shareholders gave their approval for the proposed £13 billion merger with MCI to form Comcast. It will be the biggest deal in British corporate history.

Scotliff Power, ½p firmer at 381½p, came out with top marks in NatWest Securities' latest *Utility Watch*. Despite the prospect of windfall levies and other tax charges being imposed at some stage, dividend growth should comfortably exceed the rest of the market. Others to go better included Northern Ireland Electricity, 12½p to 380p, National Power, 5½p to 540½p, Scottish Hydro, 5½p to 392½p, and Southern Electric, 6p to 434½p.

The banking sector received a welcome boost from Lehman Brothers yesterday with the publication of its *UK Clearing Banks 1997 Annual Review*. The 166-page tome predicts that the sector's re-rating will continue, with all the bull factors that have supported prices in the past five years still in place. Lehman said: "All that has changed is that the share prices are higher."

The Lehman banking team has given pride of place this year to Lloyds TSB, up 7p to 513½p, as the "prime domestic recommendation" and a firm that the shares could justify a £10 stock price in 1999. Others to find favour included HSBC, up 3½p to £15.19, Royal Bank of Scotland, 11½p firmer at 533½p, Standard Chartered, 19½p higher at 847p, Abbey National, up 5p to 790p, and Bank of Scotland, 6½p better at 319½p.

Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks giant, fell 2½p to 847½p after a mild profits downgrade by Goldman Sachs, the US securities house. It has cut its numbers



Watermark, up 6p, has high hopes in the Miss World contest

by £8 million to £992 million, blaming currency factors.

Great Universal Stores closed 63½p before closing 12½p better at 620½p as the company began a series of presentations for fund managers arranged by UBS, its new broker.

Growing optimism about the outlook for Dermagraft, its new skin treatment, put an early 3p on Smith & Nephew

effects. The shares responded with a rise of 14½p at 580½p.

Great Universal Stores continued to make headway, rising 19p to 652½p after this week's £180 million acquisition of Direct Marketing Technology in the US.

A positive trading statement lifted Capita Group 52½p to 687½p in a thin market. Rod Aldridge, chairman, told

CITY speculators have started calling time on Century Inns, the fast growing pub operator, which last month splashed out almost £10 million on 65 tenanted houses. Word is Whitbread, which has expansion plans of its own, may have given the company a close look. At these levels, Century is valued at £72 million.

to 181½p. The latest trial report on the artificial skin product proved to be positive.

The company is now applying for approval to market Dermagraft.

An update by Chiroscience on Phase 3 trials being conducted on Levobupivacaine, its new local anaesthetic, proved upbeat. It is reputed to require lower dosages and thereby reduces the risk of side

shareholders that trading in the first quarter was substantially ahead.

On AIM, shares in Watermark, the marketing services group headed by John Caulcutt, rose 6p to 34p after it saw profits more than double last year and having secured the rights to manage the Miss World competition later this year in the Seychelles. The group hopes it

will be a lucrative affair, with profits accruing from the television rights and promotional activities. Watermark joined AIM in July last year at 13p and is paying its first dividend of 0.5p.

One of the best performers yesterday was in Optometrics, with the price more than doubling from 11p to 22½p. This follows an announcement late on Monday that certain directors had agreed to dispose of 5.4 million shares, or 53 per cent of the company, at 16½p to "certain places". One of them is reckoned to be Peter Levine, deputy chairman of Severfield Reeve, who is heading up a consortium of investors. On completion of the sale, Mr Levine is expected to be appointed chairman.

Eycare Products dipped ½p to 13p on learning that Andre Cohen had resigned after a boardroom dispute over the company's direction.

Alcama, the retailer, firmed ½p to 196½p, unperturbed by the decision of John Osborn, chief executive, to exercise an option on 200,000 shares at 65½p before selling them at 194p. Sir John Nott, the former Defence Minister, has sold more than half his stake in Hillsdown Holdings, where he is chairman. The 43,399 shares were sold at 194½p. Hillsdown closed 2½p dearer at 197½p.

GLIT-EDGED: Prices in London took their lead from positive performances by both US Treasury bonds and German bunds. Gains stretched to more than £1 at the longer end as investors anxiously awaited today's employment and earnings numbers.

The Bank of England says it plans to issue £2 billion of existing tax Treasury 7 per cent 2002 in next week's auctions. Brokers had been expecting the bank to issue £2.5 billion of extra stock.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed £2½ higher at £109½, as the total number of contracts completed reached 67,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 soared £1½ to £103½, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1½ better at £102½.

NEW YORK: Blue chips held on to most of the morning's gains, though technology shares slid after poor earnings news from Intel Corp. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 88.70 points higher at 6,540.60.

Closing Prices Page 34

COMMODITIES

ICE-80 (London 4000)

CRUDE OIL (bbl) (bbl)

May 1997 102.02/102.10 102.02/102.10

Jul 1997 102.04/102.12 102.04/102.12

Nov 1997 102.06/102.14 102.06/102.14

Mar 1998 102.08/102.16 102.08/102.16

May 1998 102.10/102.18 102.10/102.18

Jul 1998 102.12/102.20 102.12/102.20

Nov 1998 102.14/102.22 102.14/102.22

Mar 1999 102.16/102.24 102.16/102.24

May 1999 102.18/102.26 102.18/102.26

Jul 1999 102.20/102.28 102.20/102.28

Nov 1999 102.22/102.30 102.22/102.30

Mar 2000 102.24/102.32 102.24/102.32

May 2000 102.26/102.34 102.26/102.34

Jul 2000 102.28/102.36 102.28/102.36

Nov 2000 102.30/102.38 102.30/102.38

Mar 2001 102.32/102.40 102.32/102.40

May 2001 102.34/102.42 102.34/102.42

Jul 2001 102.36/102.44 102.36/102.44

Nov 2001 102.38/102.46 102.38/102.46

Mar 2002 102.40/102.48 102.40/102.48

May 2002 102.42/102.50 102.42/102.50

Jul 2002 102.44/102.52 102.44/102.52

Nov 2002 102.46/102.54 102.46/102.54

Mar 2003 102.48/102.56 102.48/102.56

May 2003 102.50/102.58 102.50/102.58

Jul 2003 102.52/102.60 102.52/102.60

Nov 2003 102.54/102.62 102.54/102.62

Mar 2004 102.56/102.64 102.56/102.64

May 2004 102.58/102.66 102.58/102.66

Jul 2004 102.60/102.68 102.60/102.68

Nov 2004 102.62/102.70 102.62/102.70

Mar 2005 102.64/102.72 102.64/102.72

May 2005 102.66/102.74 102.66/102.74

Jul 2005 102.68/102.76 102.68/102.76

Nov 2005 102.70/102.78 102.70/102.78

Mar 2006 102.72/102.80 102.72/102.80

May 2006 102.74/102.82 102.74/102.82

Jul 2006 102.76/102.84 102.76/102.84

Nov 2006 102.78/102.86 102.78/102.86

Mar 2007 102.80/102.88 102.80/102.88

May 2007 102.82/102.90 102.82/102.90

Jul 2007 102.84/102.92 102.84/102.92

Nov 2007 102.86/102.94 102.86/102.94

Mar 2008 102.88/102.96 102.88/102.96

May 2008 102.90/102.98 102.90/102.98

Jul 2008 102.92/103.00 102.92/103.00

Nov 2008 102.94/103.02 102.94/103.02

Mar 2009 102.96/103.04 102.96/103.04

May 2009 102.98/103.06 102.98/103.06

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Mar 2016 103.52/103.60 103.52/103.60

May 2016 103.54/103.62 103.54/103.62

Jul 2016 103.56/103.64 103.56/103.64

Nov 2016 103.58/103.66 103.58/103.66

Mar 2017 103.60/103.68 103.60/103.68

May 2017 103.62/103.70 103.62/103.70

Jul 2017 103.64/103.72 103.64/103.72

Nov 2017 103.66/103.74 103.66/103.74

Mar 2018 103.68/103.76 103.68/103.76

May 2018 103.70/103.78 103.70/103.78

Jul 2018 103.72/103.80 103.72/103.80

Nov 2018 103.74/103.82 103.74/103.82

Mar 2019 103.76/103.84 103.76/103.84

May 2019 103.78/103.86 103.78/103.86

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Nov 2019 103.82/103.90 103.82/103.90

Mar 2020 103.84/103.92 103.84/103.92

May 2020 103.86/103.94 103.86/103.94

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Nov 2020 103.90/103.98 103.90/103.98

Mar 2021 103.92/104.00 103.92/104.00

May 2021 103.94/104.02 103.94/104.02

Jul 2021 103.96/104.04 103.96/104.04

Nov 2021 103.98/104.06 103.98/104.06

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Nov 2028 104.54/104.62 104.54/104.62

Mar 2029 104.56/104.64 104.56/104.64

May 2029 104.58/104.66 104.58/104.66



## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Challenge to NatWest board

RORY MURPHY, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, is trying to unseat one of his bosses from the bank's board. He is standing for election to the board of directors, in an effort to gain more influence for workers.

Murphy, who pledged to redirect any remuneration earned, if elected, to the staff association, wants to ensure that workers are not affected by the recent £90 million black hole that was discovered in the bank's books. The current directors standing for re-election, who have the full backing of the board, include Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, and Martin Owen, the chief executive of NatWest Markets, who took a £200,000 cut in his bonus in the wake of the mispricing affair. Murphy will put the issue to the vote at the group's annual meeting next Tuesday.

COMMISERATIONS to John Carter, chief executive of Commercial Union, who kept himself upright at yesterday's annual meeting by balancing on crutches. Resplendent in a smart grey suit, with a plaster cast up to one knee, Carter's injury is the result of a "sports accident".



Tony Hales can expect £10,000 a year at Villa

### Hales for Villa

TONY HALES, the soccer crazy chief executive of Allied Domecq, is joining the board at Aston Villa Football Club. To make time for his new appointment, Hales stood down yesterday as a non-executive director of Hydr, after four years at the water company, where he picked up £25,000 per annum. A lifelong supporter of the Premiership club, currently preparing for a stock market flotation, he can expect to earn £10,000 a year in his new role. Until he takes up the position at the end of this year, his fee will be redirected to Allied Domecq. In reference to my earlier story about Hales's football tour in Spain with 16 youngsters in tow, I am told that the opposing teams had clearly spent more time in training.

### Fish rent

THE Lord Mayor swapped his customary breakfast fry-up for Dover sole yesterday. At the crack of dawn, accompanied by six members of the ancient Company of Watermen and Lightermen, Alderman Roger Cork sailed from Mansion House to Billingsgate Market, to hand over the annual rent for the fish market, which is set at "one fish per annum" to the Corporation of London. The Lord Mayor, however, stopped short of touching the fish. A Corporation of London spokeswoman said: "He was shaking a lot of hands, and it wouldn't have been terribly nice."

### Lamb turns horse

A BLACK horse attended yesterday's Lloyds TSB annual meeting in Edinburgh. Two members of the quaintly named Lamb, Lloyds and Midland Bank Boycott, gained admittance to the meeting as a pantomime horse, on the ground that they were shareholders.

MORAG PRESTON

## Eric Reguly on the Americanisation of business

Mixing British and foreign companies can be dangerous — for the Brits that is. The "marriage of equals" rarely is that; even when a British company buys a foreign company of a similar size it seems to lose its Britishness with astounding regularity.

Shareholders of British Telecom yesterday overwhelmingly approved BT's £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long-distance carrier. They probably did not notice that the upper echelons of Concert, the merged entity, will be loaded with American names.

Jerry Taylor, chief executive of MCI, has emerged as president and chief operating officer of Concert, although he reports to Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive. Bert Roberts, MCI's chairman, is to share the chairman's office with Sir Iain Vallance and half the management positions immediately below them are filled with MCI brass. Concert will have headquarters in Washington and London and its shares are to be listed in New York and London.

Although Mr Taylor is always quick to say that "Peter is the boss", one wonders how many years will pass before Concert effectively becomes an American operation. Mr Taylor does not appear anxious to call it a day and embark on a leisurely spending spree with the \$44 million he is to receive for his MCI shares and options. He has signed a three-year contract at Concert at \$700,000 a year and gives every indication that he is gearing up for the long haul. "I don't see this as the end of my career," he told *The Times* recently. "I see it as a huge opportunity to carry on."

The reality is that BT would be in trouble if MCI's management did a runner. BT, in spite of its size, is a remarkably parochial company. The vast majority of its operations are in the United Kingdom and it knows little about the American telecoms market, the world's largest. Shuffling Taylor, Roberts & Co aside would imperil the largest transatlantic takeover in history and alienate every institutional investor in the land. Somewhat ominously, Sir Iain called MCI "the world's best market attacker" at yesterday's shareholders' meeting.

The "Americanisation" of British companies is nothing new. SmithKline Beecham, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical groups, is a classic case of the tail wagging the dog.

SmithKline started life as a Philadelphia apothecary and ran into trouble in the 1980s when its drugs pipeline took on the characteristics of an echo chamber. Beecham, founded in the last century by Thomas Beecham, an English laxative salesman, had troubles of its own. Their British brands, including Brylcreem and Macleans toothpaste, were a flop in the US market

## After overpaid and over here ... it's over us



Concert party: Jerry Taylor, left, and Sir Peter Bonfield announce the BT-MCI deal



Robert Bauman, an American, engineered the merger of SmithKline and Beecham

and by the 1980s it was drifting. Sir Ronald Halsted was fired as chief executive and no suitable Briton could be found to replace him. In the end, Beecham recruited Robert Bauman, an American, to run the show.

Mr Bauman was quick to introduce American-style management techniques to Beecham. He reportedly asked Lord Keith, the chairman, to produce the corporate plan, to which Lord Keith replied: "That's part of the problem. We don't have one."

In 1989, Mr Bauman engineered Beecham's merger with SmithKline. Overnight, Beecham became one of the largest players in the American pharmaceutical market and, since then, the group has become less and less British. Mr Bauman was replaced by Jan Leschly, a hard-driving Dane who spends less than a third of his time in Britain.

Half of the company's £7.9 billion in sales are in the US, against some 7 per cent in the United Kingdom, and 38 per cent of shareholders are American, up from 23 per cent in 1995. SmithKline Beecham is considered a multinational company if you live in Britain and an American company if you live in the US. Six of its 12 management team members are American.

There are less glorious examples of British companies losing their identity. One of the darkest instances of dynamic corporate finance activity surely is to pay a premium to lose control of your business to another company. Yet this happened in full daylight to Wiggins Teape Appleton. The coup, made by France's Worms/Saint-Louis alliance, came barely six months after the naive group's flotation.

WTA brought together paper companies owned by

BAT Industries in Britain and the US in preparation for a demerger in June 1990. BAT brought in Stephen Walls, youthful but recently vanquished champion of the Clark family's Plessey group, to head the combined company. Mr Walls thought expansion by acquisition was the strategy for WTA, so he was delighted in December 1990 to secure a merger with Arjomari, a smaller but important French paper group. Arjomari was not independent, however. It was controlled by the Saint-Louis group, which was heavily influenced by the Worms financial group. As a result of the takeover, these French interests gained a controlling 40 per cent of the combined Arjo Wiggins Appleton.

Mr Walls was assured of management independence. But the new controllers understandably soon started taking

strategic financial decisions, insisting on big cuts in the 1992 dividend. Mr Walls moved on with £700,000 in his pocket. AWA shares remain quoted in London and the Franco-British board is carefully balanced. But it is now regarded as a French company.

Metal Box is another inglorious example. The struggling packaging group turned itself around in the 1980s and merged with Carnaud of France. In this instance, however, the merger was specially structured to stop MB Group, parent of Metal Box, assuming control, as would normally have happened. Instead, Carnaud management quickly seized control.

At least one company has succeeded in Americanising two great corporate names on two continents. Varsity, having Americanised Massey-Ferguson of Canada, is now doing the same with Lucas of Britain. The irony is that the exercise is being directed by a native Briton, Victor Rice.

By the 1980s, Massey-Ferguson was severing limbs in an effort to keep the body alive. Under Victor Rice, Massey-Ferguson found salvation by evolving into a car components company called Varsity. In the early 1990s, Varsity abandoned Toronto for Buffalo, New York, a move that enraged Canadian taxpayers who had helped to save Massey-Ferguson from oblivion.

Mr Rice surfaced in Britain last year when he engineered Varsity's merger with Lucas. Varsity went to great lengths to stress that the deal was a genuine merger of equals, with 60 per cent of Lucas-Varsity's top 160 managers coming from Lucas and 40 per cent from Varsity. Five of the group's seven divisions are headed by Lucas managers. In reality Varsity seems very much in control. The chief operating officer and the finance director came from Varsity and the creation of a single head office triggered the loss of more than 500 jobs, most of them from Lucas.

The company is importing Wall Street traditions, among them the effort to replace dividend payments with regular share buybacks. It seems to have backed away from plans to drop its "cumbersome" name, but cynics would not be surprised if "Varsity" emerges triumphant. The first three letters, they note, form the initials of Victor A Rice.

Will the trend continue? Probably. One British management consultant who spends much of his career in the US said Britain produces fewer good managers than America. Britain's best and brightest, he notes, gravitate towards the legal and investment banking worlds. "Here, management, especially industrial management, is still considered grubby. In the US, the opposite is true. American managers are generally better at what they do."

The French, for their part, are simply better at corporate politics.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## Sterling at 100: play it again, Tony

It is the oddest twist of fate that the exchange markets have ensured that, in one sense, John Major may leave office exactly where he came in. But if you think that sterling's reappearance within its old ERM bands suggests that the exchange-rate regime is a non-issue in the long run, think again.

Overvaluation still means less inflation and less growth, as it did in 1992; but there is all the difference in the world between an exchange rate chosen through political misjudgment and intended to stick, and a rate that results from a market swing that will certainly swing back in due course. It is the pros and cons of this change that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown will have to work out.

Exchange-rate volatility may offend the sense of order which is a management principle of Toyota; but, in the larger view, there is an important trade-off. Bigger financial swings mean smaller swings in the real economy. Within one country asset price increases which result from falling interest rates make capital cheap and so help to end the recession that made rates fall in the first place.

Exchange-rate swings have something of the same function internationally. Strong economies produce strong exchange rates; weak ones devalue. As a result, growth in one or two countries stimulates exports from the weaker economies. The more open the economy, the more powerful are these forces of international stabilisation.

This is already beginning to happen: there are signs of export-led growth in Japan and Germany, and of strong currency deflation in the US and the UK. In due course, this will produce a profit squeeze in the current strong economies, with a new round of cost-cutting and labour shedding. Trade balances will also swing into the red, which will provoke, no doubt, the usual hand-wringing. But, in due course, the current strong economies will follow their economies down, and the whole cycle will start again.

In other words, a world of

floating exchange rates is one in which trade cycles are naturally out of step. In the days of the Bretton Woods regime this was regarded as a problem: even — since the IMF had the task of financing the trade imbalances that appear when cycles are out of step — as the problem of international economic management.

But experience showed that this was bureaucratic silliness. In the early 1970s the IMF managed to coordinate a world boom: the result was world-wide inflation. When that was addressed in the mid-1970s, we had what threatened to be a world slump. We can now see that, as when troops march over a bridge, breaking step may look ragged but is really much safer.

Could the same be true within Europe? That is the economic question at the heart of the EMU debate. A durable union would ensure, after a time, that the whole European economy would behave as one national economy, booming or slumping as a unit. This might be seen as helpful by corporate management, but would pose a series of headaches for the new central bank. Could cost pressures at the centre be countered without pushing the lagging regions into long-term decline? Is the whole Euro-economy open enough to enjoy much imported stability through the exchange markets? These are two of the difficult questions which disturb the sleep of thoughtful critics like Oskar Lafontaine of the Bundesbank, and our own Eddie George.

And that is not the end of it. Suppose you do (and I agree) that EMU is a dangerous premature project, but it happens all the same as the international bond markets seem to believe. What then is right for Britain? Floated independently on a choppy tide, as John Major believes? Or join what may be a doomed convoy, as he once thought? That is the question Tony Blair promises to resolve — a bold undertaking. But if he hopes for any help from a referendum it is too bold by half.

## Testing time for those falls in unemployment figures

The Government will today unveil what ministers hope will be the decisive pre-polling day economic news of a further large-scale fall in unemployment, which the Conservatives will present as clear evidence of the success of their management of the economy.

Ministers, who were given the figures on Monday, believe the number of people out of work and claiming benefit is now falling at up to 30,000 a month, or even more. Labour, which is vigorously suspicious of the figures, will today set out details of its welfare-to-work strategy.

Accompanying today's unemployment figures for March will be other data, which, for the first time, will provide the opportunity of testing how far the mammoth falls in claimant unemployment of recent months have given an accurate picture of the job scene.

Critics claim that the figures have become less reliable since the Government's radical revision of the benefit system for the unemployed with the introduction of the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).

Unemployment in Britain is measured in two main ways. The first, the claimant count (CC), is the regular and familiar "unemployment" total issued each month, like today's main figure. This is a straight administrative count of the number of people on a particular day each month who are out of work and claiming state benefit as assistance. The measure changes as governments alter the benefit system and is the one that Labour regularly

### Data today offers a chance to check out the figures, says Philip Bassett

derides as "fiddled figures" following more than 30 changes to it since 1979.

The second, so-called ILO unemployment, is a measure of the number of people out of work drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey (LFS). This survey is taken every three months among a statistically representative sample of 60,000 households across Britain, which registers people as unemployed according to an internationally accepted standard set by the International Labour Office. The two measures do not fully overlap because of the different definitions of being unemployed that each uses. In the way the ILO counts, some claimants are not unemployed, while some non-claimants are deemed as unemployed. In recent years, the gap between the two measures has varied. It was largest in spring 1990, at 422,000, when unemployment was close to bottoming out on both measures, and smallest in spring 1993, at 66,000, when on both counts unemployment was near its peak.



The figures are regarded with suspicion by Labour

Both measures have advantages — and drawbacks. On the ground of cost, Conservative ministers have refused to make the LFS a monthly survey as a check against CC unemployment. If Labour is elected, a move to a monthly LFS is likely.

Ministers insist that the two measures broadly follow the same trend. But the average quarterly difference between ILO unemployment and CC unemployment since the date of the last general election in spring 1992 is as high as 255,500. Unemployment as measured on the ILO definition is consistently higher than CC unemployment. The Government's opponents use this gap as part of their evidence to claim that the "real" level of unemployment is higher than unemployment as measured by the claimant count, currently 1.75 million, or 6.2 per cent of the workforce.

Recently the two measures have been diverging even more. From spring 1995 the two counts have moved even further out of line, even before the sharp drop in the claimant

count seen from the end of last year with the start of JSA.

Looking at the CC figures for the same period as the ILO unemployment count to be published today, claimant unemployment dropped by an equivalent of 184,000. This represented a fall of 135,000 for men and 49,000 for women.

This is equivalent to falls of 9.2 per cent for men, and 10.6 per cent for women — or 9.5 per cent overall. For today's LFS figures to validate the claimant count fully, that would mean declines, in rounded terms, of 133,000 in male unemployment and 83,000 in female unemployment.

In other words (with figures again subject to rounding), today's ILO unemployment would have to fall from 2.33 million to 2.02 million — a drop of 212,000 — to give the fullest possible support to the monthly claimant count figures, on which the Government will place much emphasis today.

Unless the decline in the ILO count approaches this figure the Government's political opponents are likely to maintain their scepticism about the monthly unemployment figures.

Labour will be able to claim that the present joblessness level is still higher now, even after the recent extraordinary falls in unemployment, than it was when the last Labour government left office in 1979. But if the total drops again today, it will be an important political score for the Conservatives in advance of polling day.

## NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OF PAKISTAN

### NOTICE INVITING

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR BOT PROJECTS OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN PAKISTAN

National Highway Authority (NHA), invites expression of interest from interested Road Building and Operating Companies (RBOCs) for financing, designing, constructing and operating following sections of Trans Pakistan Motorway and other expressways/bridges.

Name of the Project	Length	Estimated Cost (Rs Million)
1. Lahore-Faisalabad Motorway (4 lanes)	99Km	Rs 10,241 M
2. Sheikhupura-Faisalabad-Multan D.G. Khan Motorway (4 lanes)	405Km	Rs 52,056 M
3. Karachi-Durrat-e-Hayat (Inner Durrat) (Phase 1: 2 lanes) Expressway (Phase 2: 4 lanes)	342Km	Rs 14,280 M (for Phase 1 only)
4. Gujdar-Ratodero Motorway (2 lanes)	885 Km	Rs 24,234 M
5. Peshawar-Torkhum Expressway (4 lanes)	45 Km	Rs 2,333 M
6. Islamabad-Murree Expressway (4 lanes)	42 Km	Rs 2,300 M
7. Malir Coastal Road (2 lanes)	852 Km	Rs 34,084 M
8. Additional Chiraghway (Lahore-Rawalpindi)	53 Km	Rs 2,386 M
9. Mithankot, Rai-cum-Road Bridge	1.5 Km	Rs 19,019 M

RBOCs are expected to possess expertise of designing, constructing and operating a BOT project and therefore, must submit qualifications accordingly with profile of each member of the joint venture/consortium along with the confirmation by each member party to the RBOC for participation in the project. The prequalification of each RBOC will depend upon the qualification provided therein. The RBOCs must also identify possible and/or probable financing institutions from which they intend to arrange financing of the project.

The expression of interest shall contain the details to be provided under following headings:

1. Expression of interest
2. Composition of RBOC
3. Individual Profile of Each Member of RBOC, with details of previous BOT experience
4. Identification of Source of Financing
5. Proposed Methodology for Implementation of the Projects.
6. Copy of agreement of Joint Venture/Consortium. Along with authority letter naming the lead company for correspondence with NHA on behalf of RBOC.

The last date for receipt of interest is 12th May, 1997. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all expressions of interest without assigning any reason therefor.

The pre-qualified RBOC shall be given opportunity to participate in submission of the proposals for the above projects, for which necessary guidelines will be issued by the NHA. For any further information, please contact the undersigned on any working day between 0900-1700 hrs.

(Raja Nawaz Khan)  
Chief Coordinator (Private Sector Cell)  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY  
RDF Building G-9/1, Islamabad, Pakistan. Pbx: 051-280549 Fax: 051-284404



## Equities rally strongly

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## BANKS

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## BREWERS, PUBS &amp; REST

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## ELECTRICITY

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## ELECTRONICS &amp; ELECT

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## BUILDING MATERIALS

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## CHEMICALS

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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## DISTRIBUTORS

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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## ENGINEERING

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## INSURANCE

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## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## LEISURE &amp; HOTELS

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## MINING

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## OIL &amp; GAS

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## OTHER FINANCIAL

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## RETAILERS, FOOD

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## RETAILERS, GENERAL

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## WATER

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## ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

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## BRITISH FUNDS

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## SHORTS (under 5 years)

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1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

## LONGS (over 15 years)

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## UNDATED

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## INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation at 10%)

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## MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

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1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

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# Peugeot's £100m deal safeguards 3,000 UK jobs

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

PEUGEOT, the French car manufacturer, yesterday gave the British motor industry a £100 million vote of confidence by announcing that it will build a new car in Coventry, safeguarding almost 3,000 jobs.

Peugeot expects the 206 hatchback — a replacement for the popular 205 model — to be in production by the end of next year and in the showrooms by 1999.

The Coventry plant at Ryton already makes the 306, which has become a best-seller in Britain with nearly 59,000 sold here last year. Ryton also exports production worth about £250 million back to mainland Europe.

Dick Parham, managing director of Peugeot in the UK, confirmed the investment yesterday and said it underlined the progress that Ryton had made in Peugeot's European empire. Quality levels at

Ryton were now among the best in Peugeot while productivity had risen markedly.

Fears were growing that executives in France would take their investment plans elsewhere after workers at Ryton threatened last month to strike against a new deal on pay and conditions. But the workforce agreed to introduce flexibility on assembly lines in return for an increased 5 per cent wage offer, paving the way for the introduction of the new car. The new deal on flexibility, involving multi-skilling, allows extra shifts and production without extra recruitment. The deal swung the investment to Ryton in the face of competition from France and Spain.

The investment is a huge vote of confidence in Ryton, which has had a chequered history and lagged behind the revolution in the rest of the British motor industry. The

factory originally belonged to the Rootes Group before falling into the hands of Chrysler of the United States, but Chrysler pulled out of Europe, selling its interests to the PSA Peugeot-Citroen group for \$1.

Peugeot started production at Ryton by making the 309 and then switched to the Peugeot 405 medium-sized saloon, though that was taken back to France, leaving Ryton with the smaller 306. Improvement in productivity has increasingly impressed French executives, who decided to make Ryton a key centre for manufacture of a sedan version of the 306 for the European market.

Toyota's UK plant is to supply more than 350,000 components a year to its parent company in Japan. The £1.8 million annual contract is for rear windscreen-mounted stop lamps and wiper motors, arms and blades.



Graham Lawson, of Watts Blake Bearne, where the total dividend is increased to 16.2p in spite of a fall in earnings

## Watts suffers from strong pound

WATTS BLAKE BEARNE & Co, the processor of clay, sand and gravel, blamed sterling's strength and cost of investment for a fall in pre-tax profits to £10.7 million from £11.25 million in 1996.

The company, whose chief executive is Graham Lawson, said yesterday that operating profits were maintained at

£12.18 million, against £12.2 million, in difficult markets. At the previous year's exchange rates, operating profits would have risen by 3.5 per cent. Group turnover was £102.93 million, down from £104.87 million. Devon Clays, the core subsidiary, suffered a 1.5 per cent fall in sales volumes, primarily because of the

slowdown in the home market, though it exports about 80 per cent of output.

The total dividend is increased to 16.2p a share from 15.2p, with an 11.8p final, in spite of a fall in earnings to 29.1p a share from 31.7p. The shares were unchanged at 435p. The company is 49.5 per cent owned by SCR-Sibeco, of Belgium.

## Sedgwick and Nikols to merge

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SEDGWICK, the insurance broker, is to merge its southern European and Latin American operations with Nikols, the largest Italian insurance group.

The link-up, via a joint venture, will cover risk services, insurance and re-insurance broking and employee benefits consulting. Sedgwick did not give details of the numbers involved but said the deal was "of strategic significance as both partners are committed to growing their market share ... and to becoming the leading advisers in southern Europe and Latin America".

Sedgwick said the deal fitted in with its aim to be one of the top three brokers in each European country in which the group operates. Sedgwick has come under increasing pressure to merge with another broker, the favourite being rival Willis Corroon, to cut costs. Institutional shareholders have expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of its shares.

## Housing recovery 'gaining strength'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RECOVERY in the housing market shows further signs of strengthening, with an increase in housebuilding and the ability of people to buy remaining high.

According to the National House-Building Council, which registers applications to build new homes, activity rose 8 per cent in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period last year.

Excluding housing association developments, 34,000 applications were made for private-sector housing. Sales of new homes were strong in the first three months at an average of 632 each day, a 15 per cent increase.

Buyers are also enjoying favourable conditions, the council said. The availability of cash for first-time home buyers is at one of its highest levels since the early 1970s, according to an NHBC index. But Imtiaz Farookhi, NHBC chief executive, warned against over optimism: "Although we have now had eight months of steady recovery in the new housing market there is still a long way to go before we see conditions which match the levels of growth seen in the 1980s. It is still too early to talk of a housing boom."

Mr Farookhi said slower growth was preferable to accelerated development of the market. He said: "What the housebuilding industry needs now is a period of gentle sustainable growth backed by government policies to keep recovery on track. Long-term consumer confidence in the housing market is the essential ingredient to get increasing numbers of potential purchasers to buy a new home."

## Ropner passes on final payout

Ropner, the shipping, property and engineering group taken over in February by Jacobs Holdings, reported a 66 per cent slump in pre-tax profits from £4.62 million to £1.57 million for the year to December 31. The results, the last from Ropner as an independent company, also saw earnings per share fall from 12.9p to 1.5p. There will be no final dividend, making a 3.5p (£1.25p) total.

**Hemingway up**  
Hemingway Properties, the property trading and investment group, lifted pre-tax profits to £6.5 million (£2.9 million) in 1996. Earnings per share almost doubled to 3p. A final dividend of 0.38p will be paid on May 30, lifting the total to 0.55p (£0.5p).

**Mid-States rise**  
Mid-States, a supplier of automotive components in the US, reported pre-tax profits up from £3.7 million to £4 million for the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose 4 per cent to 5.3p. A final dividend of 0.24p, due July 24, brings the total to 0.48p (£0.48p).

**Ross improves**  
Ross Group, the electronics and engineering company, reported pre-tax losses of £223,000 for the year to December 31, against a £7.3 million loss the previous year. The loss per share fell to 0.25p (£0.09p). There is no dividend.

**Jerome ahead**  
S Jerome, the textiles manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits 20 per cent to £1.14 million in the year to December 31. The total dividend rises 33 per cent to 3p, after a 2p final. Earnings per share rose 8 per cent to 8.1p.

## American banks take advantage of buoyant markets

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN banks enjoyed higher earnings in the first quarter of this year as they took advantage of active financial markets on Wall Street and overseas.

Chase Manhattan, the largest US bank, reported earnings of \$927 million, compared with \$89 million for the same period last year, which was hit by a \$1 billion charge to cover its merger with Chemical Bank. Ignoring the merger costs, earnings rose 9 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Revenue growth did not meet the bank's targets, but improved efficiency helped to raise overall profitability. However, there was a rise in bad debts on the bank's large credit card business as US consumer debt became more of a problem for most banks across the country.

Citicorp, the second-largest bank, saw net income rise 9 per cent to \$995 million, compared with \$914 million at the same time last year. The loss ratio on Citicorp's US credit card business rose from 4.38 per cent to 5.91, contribut-

ing to a 3 per cent decline in earnings on the consumer credit operation.

The bank said that its main effort will go into overseas expansion, particularly in emerging markets, a process that will gather momentum over the next year.

Merrill Lynch, one of Wall Street's biggest investment banks, also reported higher first-quarter profits, with a record three-month result of \$465 million, up 14 per cent on last year. The bank said it had become the world's leading underwriter in debt and equity issues and is also the leading adviser on mergers and acquisitions.

Salomon Inc., the holding company for Salomon Brothers, the investment bank, fared less well. It suffered a steep fall in first-quarter profits from \$310 million a year ago to \$175 million.

Return on equity slumped from 29.7 per cent to 13.4 per cent. Robert Denham, chairman, said market conditions had been more difficult so far this year than last year.

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■ YOUTH

From London's high-rise estates to the Albert Hall: a bold new project gives teenagers a chance



■ MUSIC 1

A new sort of *Eroica*: Mark Wigglesworth blows the cobwebs off Beethoven

THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ MUSIC 2

Family matters: Shostakovich's music is interpreted at the Festival Hall by his son



■ MUSIC 3

Follow my lieder: Ian Bostridge makes his mark in a fine recital of Schubert

# Miracle in the gangsta's paradise

Richard Morrison joins some talented boys and girls from the 'hood on their way to the Albert Hall

What's the distance from the Bollo Bridge Youth Club in Acton, West London, to the Albert Hall? Three miles. A short bus ride? Wrong. It's the length of a lifetime. Next week dozens of youngsters will leave that club — a bleak, heavily barricaded hut on one of West London's grimmest estates — and make the journey to the Albert Hall. As performers, not spectators. So will hundreds of other teenagers from youth clubs across ten London boroughs.

They will stage a show called *Miracles*, and the title is apt. True, it will involve some of the capital's best youth ensembles. But it will also include many youngsters who, six months ago, would not have thought of putting on a performance in public than they would of walking on the Moon.

Nor would they have possessed the confidence or skills to do so. Some were already being written off as failures, falling off the edges of "the system", drifting into apathy and worse. How they have been given the chance to discover their potential and their pride is one of the most positive stories to happen in the arts this year.

It begins with Mark Stephenson, a former cellist who now conducts his own orchestra, London Music. Like others in the orchestral field, he is worried that the audience for symphony concerts is drawn from too narrow a social and age range. "Our population has changed dramatically, and if orchestras are to survive they have got to address that vast, diverse new audience," he says.

Most British orchestras now have community projects, taking the players into local schools. But Stephenson's plan was altogether more ambitious. He wanted to establish links with the admirable (but scantily funded) youth clubs that attempt to give teenagers somewhere safe to go after school in some of London's most difficult areas. He also wanted to give the youngsters access to some of the best professional advice and equipment available, and then to put on a show that would somehow bridge the gap between the music predominantly of interest to the kids on the street — which means rap, hip-hop and soul — and the world of orchestras and classical music. "It



Busting out of Bollo Bridge: "I'm just helping these brothers and sisters out of their shells," says New York rapper Evress Nahum-Sonson (in red jacket) of his role in the making of *Miracles*

was a gamble. I had never come across rap before in my life. But I have always felt that performers have a big social role to play."

Over more than two years Stephenson's scheme took shape. The first step was to obtain the backing of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. "They were keen to lose their hairy-knees image, and to reach into the high-rise estates," Stephenson says. In particular, Prince Edward (who chairs the Award's special projects group) gave his support. That gave Stephenson the clout to approach the youth services in ten London boroughs. "At first there was suspicion; a scepticism about people like myself descending for a single project. The local authority youth services have been put under so much pressure recently that they are very defensive about what they

are already doing. But we've got through that stage. They realise we are committed."

Next, Stephenson recruited a team of professional musicians, actors, dancers and poets to go into the youth clubs and work with the youngsters. "The idea was predominantly to give them role models. That meant a strong black presence: really good people who the kids can relate to."

They include rappers like the London-born but Brooklyn-bred Evress Nahum-Sonson, the Rabbitt dancer/choreographer Sharon Wray, jazz pianist Nikki Yeoh and the prodigiously talented young composer Paul Gladstone Reid. It is Reid who has written the 50-minute *Miracles* that will comprise the second half of the Albert Hall event, bringing together London

Musici, African drummers, a rock band, professional dancers, and a choir of about 500 to perform a fable about youngsters growing up in London.

"The first thing that the professionals had to do was to establish trust," Stephenson says. "Initially, the youngsters didn't believe that what I told them would actually happen. There are some very tough kids there. In their lives so far, very few people have given a damn about them that they had to work damn hard to achieve any worthwhile goals. Yes, performing is fun. But it's no different from sport: you need discipline, skills, dedication."

And, of course, money. The *Miracles* project cost about £300,000, which perhaps explains why such schemes don't happen

every week, or in every British city. But Stephenson found a surprising ally in the merchant bank, Singer & Friedlander, which became the principal sponsor.

"The managing director got a bit of a shock when he heard the rappers," Stephenson recalls, "because we haven't sanitised it in any way. We have simply tried to suggest that they adopt a positive attitude and say something about themselves and their own situation, rather than just copying American gangsta rap." There are also contributions from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Marks & Spencer and Channel 4, while Doc Martens has paid for the dance element and Yamaha has made a vital gift of musical equipment.

Each of the ten boroughs will have its slot in the first half of the

Albert Hall concert, having previously performed the material locally. The fare will be varied. Hillingdon is sending a percussion ensemble; other youth clubs offer steel bands, dance troupes, gospel singers and new drama.

Behind the locked doors and fortified windows of the Bollo Bridge Centre I watched Nahum-Sonson coaxing the youngsters from Acton into producing a rap and hip-hop show that is raw but sparky. "I can't categorise my role here," he says. "I'm just helping these brothers and sisters out of their shells, because they have everything they need inside — if they know how to use it."

That's the point, isn't it? London's inner-city youth has had a bad

press lately, thanks to the horrific deeds of a few teenage gangs. And of course it is important that we get to grips with the knife-culture, the seedy arcades with their mind-warping video games, the ubiquitous drug pushers and the intimidation stalking many estates and secondary school playgrounds.

But zero tolerance by itself isn't enough. We also need to hold out hope and opportunity. *Miracles* won't be perfect when it comes to fruition in the Albert Hall next week, but it will bring hope. For some youngsters, it might be the most hopeful thing that has ever happened to them. And after that the chief question, for professionals and youngsters alike, will be: where do we go from here?

● *Miracles* is at the Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) on April 24 at 7.30pm

CONCERTS: Variations on Prokofiev for cello; Shostakovich for the next generation; a rural marathon round Beethoven; and Schubert's fine swansong

## Potted chamber

When Prokofiev died in 1933 he left sketches for, among other things, two works intended for Mstislav Rostropovich: a solo sonata and a Concertino for cello and orchestra. The solo sonata seems to have remained undisturbed. The Concertino, on the other hand, has been resurrected in three different performing versions — one for cello and piano edited by Rostropovich himself, one for cello and orchestra scored by Dmitri Kabalevsky and, now, one for cello and chamber orchestra arranged by Vladimir Blok.

Steven Isserlis, who has long been a champion of the cello and piano version, has never been comfortable with Kabalevsky's orchestration — presumably because its large-scale sound is out of keeping with the intimate material and the modest proportions of the piece. As he demonstrated in a movingly committed first performance of the Blok score with Mark Wigglesworth and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Concertino is very much more convincing in a chamber-orchestra version.

If it is less than completely convincing it is because the last of the three movements, the least advanced at the time of Prokofiev's death, would surely not have survived in anything like its present form if the ailing composer had considered the implications of basing it on a theme so similar to one he had already used in

BBC NOW/  
Wigglesworth  
Cardiff

the recently revised Sinfonia Concertante for cello and orchestra. Even so, the Concertino's treatment of that theme does yield some lively and interesting new variants and it does provide an acceptable ending to a work abundant in cantabile melody in its first two movements, and far too valuable in its lyrical inspiration to be ignored. What a pity that Blok, who died earlier this year, could not be in Cardiff to hear it.

There was another example of resurrection, in a different sense, in the second half of the concert in St David's Hall. Performed in a new, minutely revised edition by Jonathan Del Mar, Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony emerged in extraordinarily fresh colours. How much of this was to do with the actual revisions and how much to do with a renewed attention to the written detail it is difficult to say. But such features as the breathless hush before the famous "false" entry of the horn in the first movement were as effective as they only rarely are.

GERALD LARNER

## Playing by the book

Philharmonia/  
Shostakovich  
Festival Hall

more massive symphonic scale, and is a profound, mature and elusive work. Igor Oistrakh has his father's broad, rich tone. But his robust professional approach to the mysterious, seamless opening melody allowed for too few moments of poetry, and the unbearable beauty of the long Passacaglia was handled roughly, missing away. A low vibrato and a fast bow may have stolen from the

intensity of the introspective cantilena, but Oistrakh sprang to life in the scherzo, burlesca and cadenza, reviving a virtuoso technique still intact.

Maksim Shostakovich took the Festival Overture at breakneck speed, capturing all its aerie emptiness at a stroke. Yet in general his speeds have slowed. The symphony's Scherzo was unmanicured and demonic; his steady speed for the finale's repeated high note produced a macabre chilling effect; and he found time and space for cadences of quiet grace in the first movement.

Yet from the very sober opening one almost felt as if a musical dictation was being given from a great distance. His instinct that one need not add baroque or irony to the composer's heavily impregnated scores is surely right; but can the stark simplicity of the Fifth take so literal an approach?

HELEN WALLACE

## Swiss raise the tempo

For its contribution to the so-called London International Orchestral Season, the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra stuck to a middle-brow course with the emphasis on Beethoven. Heirs to the oldest orchestral tradition in Switzerland, the players were responsive to the well-rehearsed preparation of their music director, David Zinman.

Zurich TO/Zinman  
Festival Hall

He is an energetic conductor who imparts a corresponding vitality to his performances, as he did in Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony by seeming at the outset in a hurry to savour the feelings Beethoven had on his excursion into the countryside. Zinman set a pace more like a marathon than a relaxed enjoyment of his surroundings.

The strings sounded bold and incisive, the woodwind variously well-pointed, and the brass mellow and rounded. The brook babbled busily in lilting triple time, the peasants went about their merry-making as if afraid of the impending thunderstorm, which broke about them rapidly before Zinman sobered down the music for a heartfelt thanksgiving hymn.

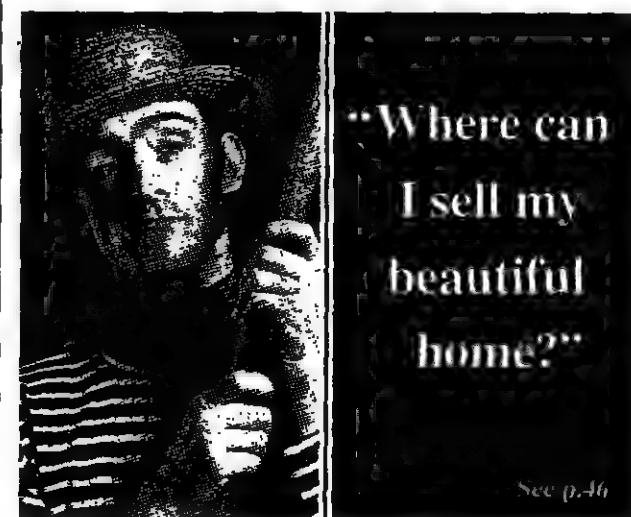
The programme began with Radu Lupu, a sometimes jaunty but always fastidious soloist in Beethoven's B flat Piano Concerto (No.2), where again no time was lost in setting a bustling tempo. The pianist adorned the first movement with what I took to be his own perceptive cadenza, leading on to a ruminative slow movement and a ravishing finale.

The visitors presented their calling-card at the outset in an

excellent account of Brahms's Academic Festival Overture. The genial spirit of the orchestral writing was poised on a buoyant rhythmic impetus

that left nothing to be desired in a sense of good fellowship and musical exuberance.

NOEL GOODWIN



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THEATRE 1

With stunning performances from Gambon and McCowen, *Tom and Clem* proves to be a winner



THEATRE 2

Saki transfers to the stage with only mixed success in *Super-Beasts* at Jermyn Street



THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3

... and Tolstoy does not fare much better in *The Power of Darkness* at the Orange Tree



RISING STAR

At 27 Robert Innes-Hopkins is fast becoming everybody's favourite theatre designer

THEATRE: Driberg and Attlee combine for a timely lesson on integrity. Plus morality soft and hard on London's Fringe

# Socialists win by a landslide

**T**he maverick Labour MP Tom Driberg did pay a brief visit to Potsdam in 1945 and, as his memoirs record, did cause "an incredibly derisive stir" there. Sadly, that was not because he emerged from groping a young Soviet interpreter beneath a table, only to find the recently elected British Prime Minister staring in disbelief at him. It was simply because he suggested, while the last votes were being counted back in Britain, that Churchill's portrait beside Stalin and Truman be replaced with one of Clement Attlee.

But Stephen Churchill is an arresting enough dramatist to be allowed to take the odd liberty in what is, amazingly, his first play. Tom Stoppard, with whom he has a little in common, felt liberated by the coincidental presence of Joyce Kilmer and Lenin in the Zurich of 1917 to bring all three into *Travesties* for a debate about the value of art. Why should Churchill not dream up unlikely encounters between Driberg and Attlee when the result is so entertaining and timely a discussion about the claims of idealism and compromise?

Moreover, nobody would want to miss the performances at the centre of Richard Wilson's fine production. Michael Gambon is Driberg, a slovenly, paunchy Bacchus with a mouth that can suddenly gape like a painfully hooked fish, and a big, ragged face that tenses and blanches when he recalls the bodies he has seen at Buchenwald. Alec McCowen is an Attlee who seems a little comic when he primly corrects his new MP for using foul language such as "bloody", or settles down to a crossword "to keep the old brainbox ticking over", yet exudes homespun decency and unpretentious generosity of spirit.

In so far as there is a plot, it is a bit absurd. Would a would-be Soviet traitor, about to be posted to London, really talk about defection to the former communist Driberg, of all people, under Stalin's nose in Potsdam, of all places? But that turns out to be a relatively minor strand in Churchill's dramatic tapestry. The fate that eventually overtakes Dan-

**Tom and Clem**  
Aldwych

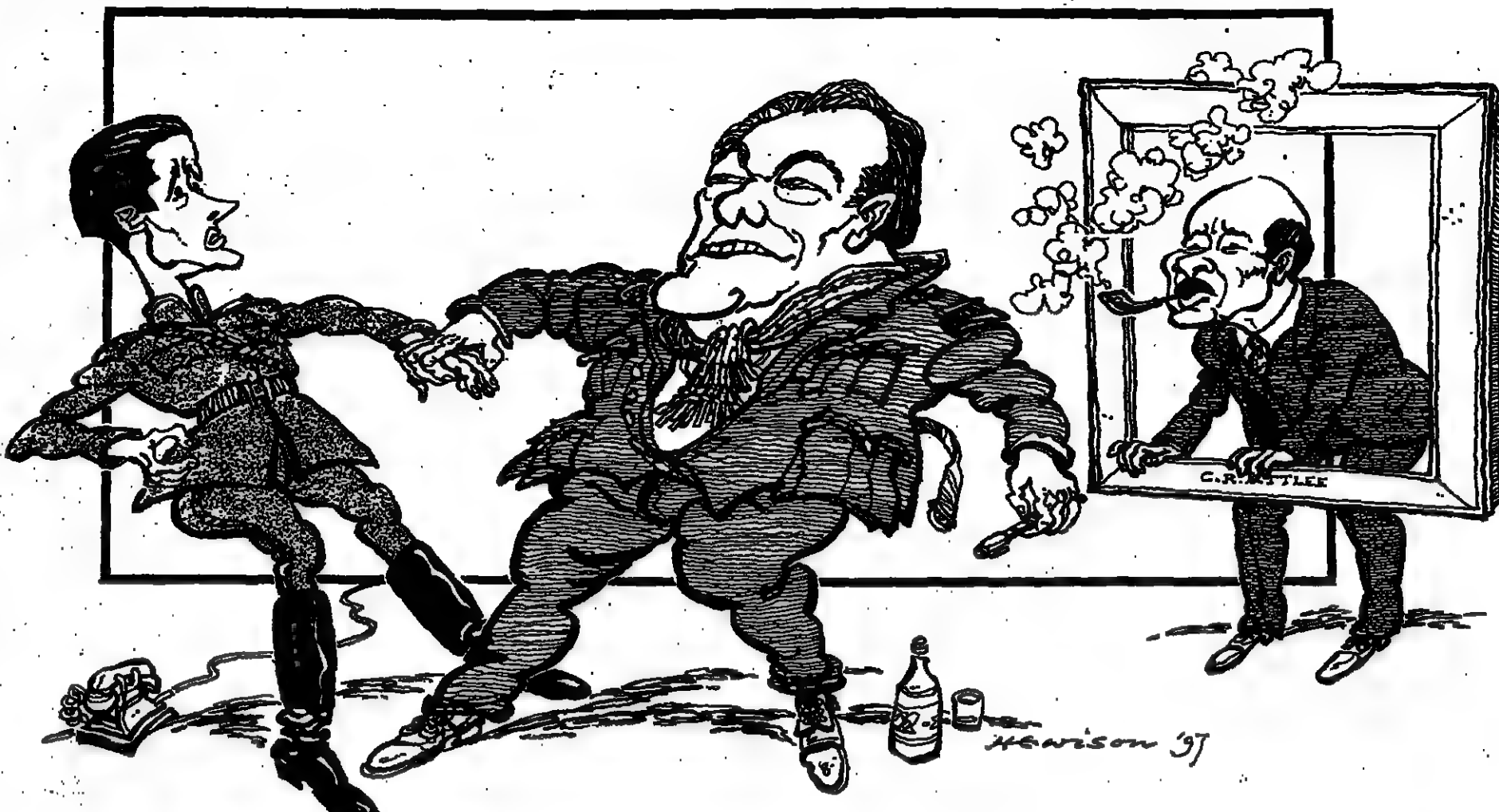
iel de la Falaise's Alexei turns out to be just one example of what Attlee praises as "thinking of the greater good", and Driberg derides as "compromise, fudge, betrayal".

This is, after all, July 1945. The bombing of Hiroshima, the dividing-up of Europe and socialism in Britain are all on the agenda. It is a chance for Driberg to flaunt the revolutionary zeal that oddly coexists with his high-church Anglicanism, dedication to fellatio and nostalgia for the Savoy Grill. The very slant of Attlee's pipe, not to mention his commonsensical mind and fondness for rice pudding, proclaims his disagreement. What matters to him is finding practical ways of building a world for the starving slum kid and for the retired teacher "who can't manage on her pension".

I must say that, given the easy smiles and trim sound-bites currently assailing us, Attlee's no-frills manner and gritty dedication to one-nation politics left me wishing he was standing in my constituency on May 1. But the strength of Churchill's play, especially when it launches into Shavian-style debate towards the end, is that it gives a fair hearing both to that and to Driberg's flamboyant romanticism. The Tories come out less well, which seemed fine by the first-night audience.

Some of us could have done with fewer double-entendres, but most people laughed a lot, especially at the confusion caused the translators when an offstage Ernie Bevin offers the Soviets "a bunch of five", or tells Molotov he "doesn't give a monkey's". But I have to report that laughter turned to applause at the lines "if we've got to have Tories they should at least be gentlemen", and "the Tories haven't delivered the goods after all the years they've had to do so". A sign of the times or unrepresentative bravado? We'll know soon.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Daniel de la Falaise (Alexei), Michael Gambon (Tom Driberg) and Alec McCowen (Clement Attlee) in Stephen Churchill's excellent debut as a playwright, *Tom and Clem*

## Saki with sugar

**Super-Beasts**  
Jermyn Street

HECTOR Hugh Munro, political journalist, war correspondent and wit, signed his work "Saki" after the Persian handmaiden who turns down the empty glass at the end of the *Rubaiyat*. This is a pretty odd choice, and if the name has stuck so fast, this could be because the echo with "sarcasm" feels so apt.

The casually witty young idlers in his stories, the tart duchesses and disaffected bores, inhabit the ripe Edwardian world of clubland and house-parties, exotically spiced with trips to the Balkans. Dictionaries of quotations rightly devote columns to his wise, or at least perfectly phrased, observations on life, society and pretension.

But this is not to say that a succession of his tales and sketches is going to work well on the stage. Ninety minutes of them, including interval, is like a feast of canapés. His style is not invariably smart. He can write of pain and grief but this show avoids these.

Even the well-known revenge tales, *Sredni Vashar* and *The Lumber Room*, are silently sweetened, and nothing is allowed to intrude upon the even Edwardian summer until *Birds on the Western Front*, possibly the last piece he wrote before a sniper's

JEREMY KINGSTON

## The wages of sin

**The Power of Darkness**  
Orange Tree Theatre

TOLSTOY'S extreme morality play was banned for nine years after he wrote it in 1886, despite its unmissable message that when it comes to sin, "once the claw is caught, the bird is lost". Sean Holmes's production does much to animate this proselytising piece but ultimately the author's simplistic message overwhelms his playwriting skills.

One sin — in this case adultery — is shown to lead to an orgy of godlessness, including the poisoning of a husband, incest and the murder of a newborn baby. Nikita, the farm labourer, is the epicentre of this spiral of evil, though in fairness he is little worse than

a cocky seducer until the women take over the plot. Anisya is trapped in an unhappy marriage with the grumbling invalid Piotr Ignatyich. She longs for his death, when she will be free to take over the farm and marry Nikita. The news that Nikita is going to be married off therefore throws her into near despair. But Nikita's mother, Matrona (excellent Collette O'Neill), has seen the advantage of her son marrying a rich widow. She teases up with Anisya, even offering her special

charms of her son. Dermot Kerrigan gives an initially dazzling performance as the shifty-eyed charmer who has never had to show much consideration to get his way. Cut to after the marriage, however, and Tolstoy's power to surprise us wanes. Such a caricature of moral degeneration is painted that the actors have little to work from and the performances just become duller and louder. Thank goodness for Nicky Shaw's beautiful set and costumes, which recreate 19th-century rural Russian life in fascinating and picturesque detail.

CLARE BAYLEY

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**Latest challenge:** He has transformed the auditorium at the West Yorkshire Playhouse into a small Scottish island for the stage version of Iain Banks's cult novel, *The Wasp Factory*, which runs from Friday to May 17. "This is the most technically involved show I've worked on. There are 55 flying cues and we're using dozens of television monitors 'suspended' above the audience to display elements that we just cannot put on stage."

**Accidental vocation:** His father, Colin, is the lighting designer for *Blind Date*, but Robert never intended to take a similar career route. "I just kind of stumbled into designing fringe productions when I was on a fine-art course in Bath."

**Apprenticeship:** While studying design at Nottingham Polytechnic, he interviewed Richard Hudson, the leading theatre and opera designer. "I ended up as his assistant for the next two years, working at the RSC and Covent Garden. It taught me that design is often about knowing when and how to compromise."

**Personal sideline:** As a founder member of the Primitive Science performance group, he designed a live version of Kafka's short story *The Hunger Artist*, which caught the eye of *Comedy of Errors* director Tim Supple. "Primitive Science is really important to me. We're hoping to move away from theatre with a music-based installation at a London gallery in the autumn."

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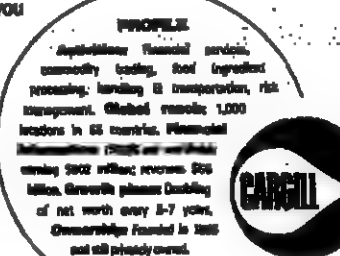
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- General administrative/secretarial duties. We are interested in hearing from young, enthusiastic individuals who are keen to work in a busy and fun environment. You will need to be self confident, with strong communication skills and a desire to exceed our clients expectations. In addition, you will need solid secretarial skills including typing speeds of at least 40 wpm.

To apply, please send your CV, together with details of your current package and, if possible, a daytime telephone number, to: Harvey Nash, 13 Bruton Street, London W1X 7AH. (Tel: 0171 333 0033, Fax: 0171 333 0032.) Please quote reference number HN2583CC.

**HARVEY NASH**

## Executive Secretary PA

Treat yourself to a better lifestyle in Ireland to £22k

A highly competent, mature and professional PA capable of working on their own initiative is sought by the chairman of a major international company.

Based on his private estate in Co Wicklow you will provide an all-round secretarial, administrative and book-keeping service. As well as good shorthand, wp and spreadsheet skills you will be capable of supervising a small team of estate staff and will be available to travel within Europe and beyond. Relocation expenses will be offered, along with help to find accommodation in the area. (Car driver essential.)

Please write with full c.v. to Ms. S. Earls, BS&B Safety Systems Ltd, Raheen Industrial Estate, Limerick, EIRE.

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Required for Lady Elizabeth Anson at Party Planners. You will need to be extremely efficient and organised: flexible, patient and used to working under pressure. A smart appearance and good telephone manner are important. Secretarial skills of 100/60 sh and word for windows. Clean driving licence. Immediate start. Please apply in writing to: Nicola Goodwin, 56 Ladbrooke Grove, London W11 2PB.

No Agencies

## PA/SECRETARY, ST JAMES'S

The founder of a prestigious antique gallery in London St James's, seeks the 'perfect' PA/Secretary. A wonderful position for the right person. As you will be meeting important influential clients, a good dress sense and good speaking voice are essential. You will possess good secretarial skills, shorthand/word processing, and be proficient with Microsoft packages.

Agreed between 25-40, non-exempt. Salary circa £18,000 + benefits. Please apply in writing together with CV to: The Managing Director, Tower Pilling & Sons, 75a Jermyn Street, London SW1T 4AP.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is one of Britain's largest charities. Our aim is to prevent, treat or cure all forms of cancer.

## PA TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL RESEARCH

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, LONDON WC2  
Salary: £16,459 - £21,725 incl per annum

Imperial Cancer's Clinical Directorate is responsible for the general management of the combined programme of approximately 20 research units throughout the UK. An experienced Personal Assistant is required for the Assistant Director of Clinical Research. The successful applicant will combine the role of PA with a variety of administrative duties, including the organisation of appointments boards and reviews of research units. Well developed PC skills (Word 6) and a working knowledge of spreadsheets (Excel) is essential. Previous experience of a scientific/healthcare environment would be an advantage but not essential. You should possess excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, good organisational skills and be educated to at least 'A' level standard or equivalent. You should enjoy working on your own initiative and as part of a team and have the ability to work to tight deadlines.

To apply, please send two copies of your full CV with a covering letter including the names and addresses of two referees to: The Personnel Department, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX, quoting ref: 1291/T. Closing date for applications: 30 April 1997.

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It's a fun environment and an ideal opportunity to manage our Customer Service support contracts, produce reports, distribute company literature and handle contract enquiries - involving lots of customer liaison.

We're looking for a good organiser with the ability to prioritise, work to deadlines, and handle multiple projects. With excellent written and verbal skills you'll be competent with PC/MAC word processing, database entry, spreadsheets and presentation software and your achievements as part of a dedicated team will not go unnoticed.

So if you want to join a fast growing friendly company, send your CV, quoting Ref: NM226 to our Recruitment Advisors: Nicholson Martin, Maurice House, Millers Three, Southmill Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 3DH. Closing date 30th April.

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Senior PA to the Chairman  
Based Hammersmith £22,000

Tourism is one of the UK's largest industries and contributes £38 billion every year to the British economy. The Chairman of the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board has a high profile role in promoting and developing tourism and an exciting opportunity now exists for a high calibre individual to support him in the role of Senior PA.

Using your outstanding organisational and communications skills, you will undertake a comprehensive PA role. Your responsibilities will include diary management, organising meetings, drafting correspondence, planning itineraries and arranging travel in addition to producing briefing papers and dealing with senior level people, including MPs and chief executives.

To succeed in this challenging but rewarding role, you will be educated to at least 'A' level standard and have a minimum of 5 years' senior secretarial or PA experience. Your excellent audio and keyboard skills (minimum 60wpm) will be supported by a good knowledge of Windows wordprocessing and other software (e.g. spreadsheets, databases etc.) the ability to use your own initiative and to work as part of a team.

Other essential qualities include a smart appearance, a friendly but highly professional telephone manner, self-motivation and the ability to deal with confidential matters in a tactful, diplomatic and discreet manner. A sense of humour and a genuine interest in tourism would be a distinct advantage.

In return for your commitment and flexibility, we can offer an attractive salary and a range of benefits to include contributory pension scheme and generous holiday entitlement.

To apply, please write with your CV to: Noreen McCall, Human Resources Manager, BTA/ETB, Thames Tower, Black's Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9EL. Closing date for applications: 30th April 1997.

## COMPETENT GIRL - FRIDAY

Required for an, very busy marketing job. Lots of phone calls to answer, charming MD's letters to type and keeping him on the straight and narrow, presenting the prospectus from blowing up and ordering the stationery, office secretary, experienced at all times to visit. This is your kind of job? Send your CV to: Vanessa Corbett, Grand Prix Logistics, PO Box 598, London W10 0SH. Salary circa £13k.

## ENA TEXTILES LTD

62/63 OLD STREET CHILDREN'SWEAR PORTER requires audio/typist to be general office secretary. Experienced if possible with good English ability. W/P skills essential. Minimum salary: minimum of £6 an hour net. To: 01733 506 071/251 2801 0171 490 4772

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DO YOU HAVE:

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WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

A qualified secretary with at least two years experience of responsibility for administration in an IT context. Aston is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Completed application forms must be received by 5pm on 14 May 1997.

For application forms and further details write to: Jenny Rogers, Aston Charities Trust Ltd, Barkham Grove, London E7 9AB.

## Executive Secretary

Our client is a leading international group of companies. They are looking for an experienced, mature, professional and efficient Executive Secretary. A day to day role involving a variety of tasks including: diary management, correspondence, travel arrangements, and general office support. The successful candidate will be a strong communicator with a proactive, flexible attitude and a service-oriented approach. Proven organisational skills, the ability to prioritise, manage your own workload and anticipate the needs of an extremely busy and demanding boss, essential. Presentation and professionalism a must. You will need at least five years' senior level experience, preferably gained within a large organisation in a one-to-one role. High level of computer literacy (to include Windows and spreadsheets), A-level education or equivalent, audio/copy typing of 80wpm+ as well as flexibility with regard to extensive overtime also required. If you believe you have the skills and experience to match the above, please send your CV, stating current salary to: Support Staff Recruitment, National HR, Ernst & Young, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AP.

## PA/ADMINISTRATOR

£18,000 - £22,000. An experienced, mature, professional and efficient PA/Secretary is required for a leading international group of companies. The successful candidate will be a strong communicator with a proactive, flexible attitude and a service-oriented approach. Proven organisational skills, the ability to prioritise, manage your own workload and anticipate the needs of an extremely busy and demanding boss, essential. Presentation and professionalism a must. You will need at least five years' senior level experience, preferably gained within a large organisation in a one-to-one role. High level of computer literacy (to include Windows and spreadsheets), A-level education or equivalent, audio/copy typing of 80wpm+ as well as flexibility with regard to extensive overtime also required. If you believe you have the skills and experience to match the above, please send your CV, stating current salary to: Support Staff Recruitment, National HR, Ernst & Young, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AP.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS Secretary PA

Our client is a leading international group of companies. They are looking for an experienced, mature, professional and efficient Public Relations Secretary. A day to day role involving a variety of tasks including: diary management, correspondence, travel arrangements, and general office support. The successful candidate will be a strong communicator with a proactive, flexible attitude and a service-oriented approach. Proven organisational skills, the ability to prioritise, manage your own workload and anticipate the needs of an extremely busy and demanding boss, essential. Presentation and professionalism a must. You will need at least five years' senior level experience, preferably gained within a large organisation in a one-to-one role. High level of computer literacy (to include Windows and spreadsheets), A-level education or equivalent, audio/copy typing of 80wpm+ as well as flexibility with regard to extensive overtime also required. If you believe you have the skills and experience to match the above, please send your CV, stating current salary to: Support Staff Recruitment, National HR, Ernst & Young, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AP.











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Frontline role in a prestigious partnership. Responsible for meeting and greeting clients, booking meeting rooms and preparation of rooms for use. Working alongside another receptionist, you will have immaculate presentation and a flair for dealing with people.

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This role will appeal to someone who wants to take a leading role in running a small commercial consultancy based in London's West End. The ideal candidate will have a minimum 5 years experience in a similar role with a leading consultancy.

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**PAs - Secretaries**  
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ROC Specialises in short and long term contracts with 'Blue Chip' companies at City and West End locations

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Next to Bond Street Tube Station  
Email: roc@roc.co.uk**



## CREME DE LA CREME

## CAREER CHALLENGE

If you feel like you need a chance to further your career, then take this opportunity to browse over a sample of what we have on offer NOW:

**CONFERENCE & BANQUETING SECRETARY W1 £14,500**  
Working for a beautiful 5 star hotel, this is not a purely secretarial role as your responsibilities grow to include liaising with clients. Your confident, professional manner and appearance will be essential when meeting & greeting visitors, and AmPro at 50wpm will equip you for the secretarial aspects of the position.

**SECRETARY W1 £16,000**  
Opportunity within the Music Industry for a skilled secretary/administrator. Providing full support for the Personnel Manager, you will need to be highly organised and enjoy working in a busy, vibrant environment. Ideal for a second jobber.

**PA W1 £16,000**  
A growing Marketing Consultancy are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic individual with the initiative to get involved in client account management as well as providing secretarial, administrative, and organisational support. Liaising with high profile clients, you will be utilising your excellent interpersonal skills to the maximum. A great opportunity in an expanding industry.

**SECRETARY WC1 £15,500**  
An excellent chance to join a large organisation in a varied role. You will be attending Council meetings 4 times a year, assisting with the admin leading up to each meeting, and have a real chance to work on your own initiative. Experience of W.P. 6.1 and Lotus coupled with a sound educational background are vital. Great company benefits.

For more information about these or any of our other vacancies, please contact BEVERLEY, or CHRIS: 0171 629 0777, 311 Regent Street, London, W1R 6AJ.



## Money, Money, Money...

Temps to £9.50 p/hr

Come and join our fantastic temp team and experience all the glamour and excitement the City has to offer. Choose the buzz of the trading floor or the tranquility of corporate finance and show them what a good team secretary is made of. Excellent windows packages, 55 wpm and the right attitude is all you need to get the best deal including rates, overtime and AIR MILES awards. Call us now for an immediate interview and let us take you further than you ever thought possible.  
0171 390 7000



**Crone Corkill**  
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## YOUNG SEC TO CHIEF EXEC

RETAIL CO., W1

£18,000 p.a. + Bens.

Working alongside a PA undertaking all sec/admin duties including ST, typing, diary, tel. fax, org. meetings/travel etc. Must have 50wpm ST & 50wpm Typ. WPM 6.1 + basic Excel & PowerPoint. Age 22-27.

Call Wendy, La Crone Corkill, URGENTLY on 0171 429 8808 (Fax: 0171 429 8844)

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
TELEPHONE 0171 429 8808

## MAINE-TUCKER

Assistant to Head of HR

£20,000 + PRP Pens Health & more

Start your own business with your own office. This is a unique opportunity for the Director of HR. The company is looking for a highly motivated individual to join the team. The role involves managing the HR department and ensuring that the company's HR policies are implemented. The successful candidate will be responsible for recruiting, training, and developing the HR team. The role also involves managing the company's HR budget and ensuring that the company's HR policies are up to date. The successful candidate will be a member of the company's senior management team.

18-21 Jericho Street, St James's, London SW1W 7EP  
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THE WORLD OF INTERIORS

£13,000

1st/2nd Jobber with some office skills and a bright personality required for expanding Chelsea Design Co. Your day will involve dealing with Interior Designers (and their clients) assisting with running of the Showroom, typing, taking calls, invoicing etc. - all in a busy but extremely friendly office! 40 wpm + Windows

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## Hays Banking Secretarial

OPEN DAY - THURSDAY 17TH APRIL  
41/42 LONDON WALL 8.00am to 8.00pm

We are the market leaders in providing secretarial staff and are looking for experienced banking secretaries. In return for your skills and commitment we offer extremely competitive rates of pay. Don't miss out on the opportunity of challenging and exciting positions with many high profile International Banks. We have various long and short term assignments within a variety of departments. If you are interested in the listed jobs below or the many other opportunities we can offer, pop in and meet us on Thursday 17th April or call to arrange an alternative appointment.

## EXPERIENCED DTP OPERATORS

CITY  
A highly motivated individual with good DTP skills, particularly Quark and Word, proven experience within a banking environment and the ability to work both on your own initiative and within a team. If this sounds like a challenge? We currently have vacancies within the Equities Department of a high profile International Bank. In return for your skills and commitment you will experience excellent rates of pay, a pleasant work environment and the support to evolve into a permanent member of the team!

**SHORTHAND SECRETARY £10 p/hr**  
We need your Shorthand expertise! Various length temporary assignments with Investment Banks, require skilled secretaries who are confident using Shorthand on a daily basis. Microsoft Office packages including Word, Excel and PowerPoint are essential. Use your skills to differentiate yourself within the job market. Call to arrange an interview.

41/42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB  
Tel: 0171 658 7008 Fax: 0171 625 5057

Personal Assistant  
£30,000 package

Absolute dedication to duty required from competent, educated and highly enthusiastic Personal Assistant, willing to take on office management tasks as well as providing first class PA / Secretarial support to successful boss (mid thirties) in return for which an excellent salary and generous biannual bonus is offered. As part of a young, fun and extremely hard working team, you should be flexible with regard to working hours and be fully proficient in Word for Windows possibly with some PowerPoint ability and willing to use audio. The ability to liaise clearly and effectively with people at all levels is essential. Excellent office accommodation within minutes of both Green Park and Piccadilly. Company is part of an international Search and Selection Consultancy with offices worldwide. Please call Catrin Rowlands for further information.

Susan Doughty Recruitment  
38A Curzon Street London W1T 7EP  
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7922

Information Technology  
Career Change - to £25,000

Are you fascinated by what computers and word processors can do? Do you have a high level of competence in MS Word for Windows and perhaps the ability to use PowerPoint too? If so this could represent a fantastic opportunity to break out of the secretarial rut and re-train to become a User Support for an international Executive Search firm in St. James's. Aside from assisting with all manner of queries and enjoying a comprehensive knowledge of the department's routine administration and will have well developed interpersonal skills, enthusiasm and a sense of humour plus the ability to learn new tasks quickly. An excellent salary plus discretionary bonus and other benefits is offered bringing the total package to around £25,000. For further information please call Catrin Rowlands.

Susan Doughty Recruitment  
38A Curzon Street London W1T 7EP  
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7922

Hammersmith  
PA to MD to £22,000

At least a local job which is interesting, challenging and frankly hard work for a competent and enthusiastic PA with well developed Excel, MS Word and PowerPoint skills. Working on a one-to-one basis for a dynamic and totally committed boss you will enjoy contact with retailers nationwide. Clients vary from top Mayfair haute couture through to high street fashion chains and the position will involve supporting the Managing Director in every aspect of her work, with the occasional trouble-shooting and problem solving during her absence from the office. Excellent Excel experience, the ability to compile reports and first class communication skills essential. A cheery disposition and willingness to be flexible regarding working hours. Please call Catrin Rowlands for further information.

Susan Doughty Recruitment  
38A Curzon Street London W1T 7EP  
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7922

Fashion  
£18,000

This extremely well known company is moving into fashion and will be launching a new clothing range, top end of the leisure / casual market, in the Spring / Summer of 1998. A major West End flagship store is planned with sales made through concessions nationwide and, ultimately, worldwide. Gearing up behind the scenes is a team of talented individuals who need your unflinching support. There are two positions on offer, both for lively, young, committed individuals who are competent Secretaries able to use Word for Windows and available to join this exciting new venture as soon as possible. Both positions are at Director level but require people who are happy to support other members of the team too. Call Sue Doughty for more information.

Susan Doughty Recruitment  
38A Curzon Street London W1T 7EP  
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## MAINE-TUCKER

No experience necessary!

TOP AD AGENCY

Sec/Assistant - £13,500

The PA will be a member of the top advertising agency in the country. The role involves managing the agency's administrative and financial affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for ensuring that the agency's operations are efficient and profitable. The role also involves managing the agency's client relationships and ensuring that the agency's reputation is maintained. The successful candidate will be a member of the agency's senior management team.

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CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
WITH A PHONE CALL

We are seeking secretaries who are looking for between £13,000 - £16,000 in a variety of different companies, ranging from the financial sector to the media world. Opportunities are available for school leavers / 2nd or 3rd jobbers or those seeking a move into a dynamic PA role. You need to be young, switched on, ambitious and of smart appearance with good accurate typing speeds upwards of 40wpm.

If you are ready for a challenge and want to change your life in a matter of one hour - call Sam urgently for immediate interviews and look forward to tomorrow.

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As media secretarial specialists we can offer you a world of exciting opportunities

from the Arts, publishing, broadcasting, marketing, PR and music

If you are a good PA or Secretary with a professional attitude, we'll find you a job you'll be glad to leave!

Salary range up to £16,000

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**MAINE-TUCKER**  
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RECEPTION WITH PROSPECTS!  
£14,000 + bonus

Do you want your first job to be a genuine challenge? We are looking for a highly motivated individual to join our team. The role involves managing the bureau's administrative and financial affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for ensuring that the bureau's operations are efficient and profitable. The role also involves managing the bureau's client relationships and ensuring that the bureau's reputation is maintained. The successful candidate will be a member of the bureau's senior management team.

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## KICK START YOUR CAREER

**MANAGEMENT SECRETARY**  
£15,200 - £16,000

Getting on the next rung of your career ladder is not always easy - so this is one exciting opportunity you shouldn't let slip by! Ideal for those looking for a prestigious high profile appointment, you'll work alongside an IT Manager & two project leaders, & will be involved in every aspect of their project work. They'll rely on you to arrange their flights & foreign currency needs, organise diaries & meetings plus oversee personnel needs, so a confidential, professional approach is vital. Superb benefits.

**AUDIO SECRETARY**  
£14,000 - £15,000

Small, friendly Company (& they are!) require a keen 2nd jobber to work with a developing Executive, handling clients from the film & Entertainment Industry. Overseeing a large volume of WPS.1 audio typing you'll liaise with a wide range of people, so a professional, flexible approach is of key importance. An invaluable opportunity to gain all round experience.

Help further your career prospects call DANIELLE or REBEKAH now on 0171 835 7248.  
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REGIS are the UK's largest hair and beauty company, with 350 salons nationwide, offering creative, expert cutting, styling, colouring and perming in attractive salon surroundings.

REGIS also offer a comprehensive range of invigorating and rejuvenating beauty treatments including facials, manicures, waxing plus more revolutionary therapies.

REGIS guarantee quality, service, value, and training and can offer advice on hair and beauty home care routines including an exclusive, professional retail range of 21 different Regis hairstyling products.

To find out more information about Regis and career opportunities please contact Julie Charlton (direct line) 0171 318 0613.

## REGIS

Regis have a talented creative team who participate in shows, events and photo-shoots and the company offers great career opportunities to any artistic individuals.

## TRAVEL

£15-16K  
This is a fantastic role providing administrative support to dynamic teams of international Convention and Travel Agents. The role involves managing the company's administrative and financial affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for ensuring that the company's operations are efficient and profitable. The role also involves managing the company's client relationships and ensuring that the company's reputation is maintained. The successful candidate will be a member of the company's senior management team.

**SHOPPING?**  
£15,500  
Based in the heart of the City, this is a fantastic opportunity for a highly motivated individual to join our team. The role involves managing the company's administrative and financial affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for ensuring that the company's operations are efficient and profitable. The role also involves managing the company's client relationships and ensuring that the company's reputation is maintained. The successful candidate will be a member of the company's senior management team.

**PUBLISHING**  
£14-15K  
If you have a passion for publishing and want a job where you're learning 5 things at once - look no further! This large, young firm of Publishers require someone who can provide secretarial support to a large team of Editors. The role involves managing the company's administrative and financial affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for ensuring that the company's operations are efficient and profitable. The role also involves managing the company's client relationships and ensuring that the company's reputation is maintained. The successful candidate will be a member of the company's senior management team.

**CHARITY**  
£13-14K  
Probably the most highly respected charity within the Corporate world, we are looking for a highly motivated individual to join our team. The role involves managing the company's administrative and financial affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for ensuring that the company's operations are efficient and profitable. The role also involves managing the company's client relationships and ensuring that the company's reputation is maintained. The successful candidate will be a member of the company's senior management team.

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PUBLISHING AND PR

**Production Administrator**  
£16-17,000  
Excellent opportunity with a progressive publishing house. Coordinate and administer the production of a variety of books and magazines. Must be a graduate, have good admin and communication skills and a knowledge of Excel.

**PR Secretaries/Assistants**  
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If you have the skills you have a number of opportunities with leading, professional and your own PR agencies in Central London. Must be a graduate, have 50wpm typing and 6 months + office experience.

**Secretary/Editorial Assistant**  
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Well known book publisher requires a graduate with 6 months + office experience, knowledge of MS Word and spreadsheets. 50wpm typing. 40wpm.

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Exceptional opportunity for a career PA to support this high profile marketing partner in one of the world's leading Executive Search firms. You will be utilised as a true executive to deliver financial confidential assignments in the most senior level. Stamina, energy and a commercial acumen are needed to take "ownership" of your boss' business. If you are looking for an involving, demanding 1:1 role where you will be relied upon as a right hand person and are a qualified secretary with excellent skills, please call to hear more.

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Spectacular weather, spectacular clients and a spectacular need for temps! To meet our high standards you'll need 60 wpm minimum, good Windows skills and either audio or short-hand. In return we pay you to £10 per hour and can offer long or short-term assignments in commercial and non-commercial companies.

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Devonshire Appointments are delighted to be appointed as sole agent to recruit fluent German/English Graphic Operators on behalf of a leading Global Investment Bank.

This is an ideal opportunity to use your Word, Excel and PowerPoint skills in a dynamic client driven environment. Working within a small friendly team you will be responsible for producing highly polished documents and presentations for a successful team of professionals. Full training will be provided in the corporate in-house styles and guidelines.

Benefits include relocation assistance of up to 2 weeks accommodation, flight back to Frankfurt and 30 days annual holiday. Starting contracts typically range from 12 months to 2 years. Highly competitive salaries are paid from DMY2,000 (approx £20,000) in addition to a generous overtime allowance. Commencing May 1997.

Please call Karen Thomas as soon as possible or fax/send your cv: 7 Birch Lane, London EC3V 7BY. Tel: 0171 626 2158 Fax: 0171 626 2092. e-mail: apoint@devonshire.co.uk

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CANARY WHARF

circa £16,000

Knight Frank is a private and independent Partnership of international property consultants, who provide a full range of property services to both commercial and residential sectors.

A vacancy has arisen for a Secretary/Management Negotiator who will work within the Landings department. You will manage properties, liaise with tenants and landlords, negotiate contracts and maintain and regularly inspect properties to ensure standards are maintained.

The successful applicant will identify, have experience in a residential property environment together with excellent PC skills (Word and Excel) and organisational skills. You must have the confidence to communicate with people at all levels in a courteous and professional manner and be able to demonstrate a solid work history.

To apply, please send a copy of your Curriculum Vitae with a recent colour photo and your current salary level to: Knight Frank Ltd (Sole Agents) 45, St. Michael Street, London, W1T 1ED Tel: 0171 499 9038 Fax: 0171 499 9002

Knights Frank is an equal opportunities employer.

## RECEPTIONIST/ MARKETING ASSISTANT/SEC.

Circa £16,000 + perks. A varied position for someone who wants to be more than a receptionist. You must be well spoken with good presentation, flexible, organised and able to take on a number of responsibilities. You will be joining a growing, dynamic company. Please call Julie Green on 0171 628 2727.

**TEMPS**  
needed  
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TALISMAN Secretarial Ltd

We urgently require high quality secretaries. In return we pay top rates and offer exciting long and short term assignments in both Corporate and Media companies. Please call Julie Green on 0171 628 2727

## TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Take a look at what's currently available.

**PRESS OFFICE ASSISTANT £12,000 HOLBORN**  
An absolutely fabulous opportunity to get into PR! You'll need at least a years office experience & a strong interest in current affairs for this going places role, providing support to a small, hectic team. From compiling/distributing press cuttings & helping to organise events, through to liaising with the media, you'll need to be a confident team player, happy to shoulder responsibility. Excellent career prospects.

**PA to COMMITTEE SECRETARY £15,000 HOLBORN**  
Minimise upon your Secretarial skills with this prestigious post. Ideal for those looking to develop their PA expertise. A mainly self supervisory role, you'll keep members updated on meeting dates & in-house circulars, handle enquiries & provide admin support on Am Pro. Strong organisational & prioritising skills a must. Benefits include gym & five weeks holiday.

**JUNIOR LEGAL SECRETARY £12,500 LINCOLN'S INN**  
Develop a role with stacks of potential, working as part of a newly relocated Law Firm. Perfect for those looking to move into the legal field, you'll mainly be involved in day to day admin & reception requirements, from greeting clients to preparing presentations on MSOffice. Its a busy, involved role, ideal for an "all rounder", whose contribution will be fully appreciated - & rewarded!

And that's just the start! To find out more ask for NICOLA or DEBORA with regards to Full Time options on 0171 430 2581.

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Language Opportunities

Fax: 0171 782 7586  
Language Opportunities

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German & Italian & French  
Or German & Scandinavian languages  
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Dublin: £11K-£13K + relocation pkg  
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Two Great Latin languages  
(French/Spanish/Italian only)  
9 mth contract, 9:30am-5:30pm  
**Credit Controller + German, IT**  
Permanent or temporary, £14K-£17K  
**IT Telesales + German**  
Native speaker (good) and  
£12K-£14K pa (OTE £20K-£22K pa)  
**IT Product Support Analyst + Swedish**  
Customer Service background, familiar  
with Windows environment £13K-£16K  
PLEASE PHONE FOR DETAILS

**Multilingual**  
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**ACCOUNT MANAGER**  
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This international company is looking to recruit an experienced sales person interested in IT. Excellent package including the opportunity to travel.

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Excellent presentation, persuasive and interpersonal skills are what this company needs upon for its European research team. In return, excellent prospects.

**SECRETARY**  
**FLUENT GERMAN**  
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Solid secretarial skills with second to none organisational skills and an interest in IT. Excellent package including the opportunity to travel.

**CUSTOMER SERVICES**  
**FLUENT GERMAN/ITALIAN/SPANISH**  
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Excellent communication skills are essential for this wonderful opportunity in Dublin.

**Telephone us now for an immediate interview**  
**Appointments Bi-Language**  
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• Immediate start  
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• Enjoy a variety of dynamic City companies  
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You need excellent secretarial skills, data typing and good window packages. If you are not a shy person, you want and like the above ideas, then call our City Temp Desk for expert advice and a selection of suitable new jobs.  
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**Crone Corkill**  
Temporary Recruitment

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Earn from £8.00 - £11.00 per hour  
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Telephone: 0171 734 5411, Fax: 0171 734 5412

**£10 p.h.**  
**55+ wpm**

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German email services for business  
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## 50 MARATHON

**FLORA LONDON MARATHON**

## Runners up to 4 hours, 12 minutes, 49 secs

# UNISYS

Official suppliers of computers to the race. The names and times of other finishers will be continued tomorrow.

The Times continues its coverage of the 1997 Flora London Marathon with the names of the competitors who finished inside 4 hours, 12 minutes and 49 seconds. The results are provided by Unisys, of-  
s to the race. The names and  
be continued tomorrow.

J Dudley 3:49:50; S Butcher  
3:49:50; S Syrett 3:49:56; A Gomm  
3:49:56; A Hunn 3:49:56; R Lunn  
3:49:56; M Lucken 3:49:56; C  
Castro 3:49:57; O Valdez 3:49:57;  
J Burt 3:49:58; O Valdez 3:49:58;  
D Brown 3:49:57; W Marais 3:49:57;  
A Wickstead 3:49:57; J  
3:50:00; J Jackson 3:50:00; M  
Davies 3:50:01; V Rapicano  
3:50:01; D Hall 3:50:01; I  
3:50:01; G Parker 3:50:01; C Wilper  
3:50:03; D Parler 3:50:03; P  
Gudka 3:50:03; S Turner 3:50:03;  
S Gommie 3:50:03; S  
3:50:05; R Dare 3:50:05; S  
McLinden 3:50:05; S Hill 3:50:05;  
3:50:05; R Leach  
3:50:05; R Roach 3:50:05; R  
3:50:05; S  
3:50:05; V Beglane 3:50:05; S  
Baldwin 3:50:05; P Chessman  
3:50:05; S  
Stewart 3:50:06; G Brady 3:50:06;  
C Lackey 3:50:06; R Milton  
3:50:06; S  
Ripley 3:50:09; R Hurley 3:50:09;  
Mora 3:50:09; J Scott 3:50:09;  
3:50:10; T  
3:50:10; M Gasper 3:50:10; G Ford  
3:50:10; Worts 3:50:10;  
3:50:11; S  
3:50:11; G Smith 3:50:11; R Smith  
3:50:11; I Varham 3:50:11; E Berry  
3:50:11; D  
3:50:12; D Taylor 3:50:12; M Hall  
3:50:12; D Taughan 3:50:12;  
Eldred 3:50:12; S  
3:50:14; M Sartola 3:50:15;  
Harding 3:50:15;  
3:50:15; N Stronon  
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3:50:17; D Georgiou 3:50:18; A  
Woolf 3:50:18; S  
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3:51:23; G Tartessus 3:51:24; A  
Moore 3:51:24; S Ind 3:51:24;  
J Dunkley 3:51:24; A Crowder  
3:51:24; S  
3:51:26; G Klinger 3:51:26; A  
Alltop 3:51:27; M Read 3:51:27;  
J McCarry 3:51:27; S Halpin  
3:51:27; G Givord 3:51:27;  
Jenkins 3:51:27; C Zanz 3:51:28;  
A Gallowsy 3:51:28; G Bernhof  
3:51:28; S  
3:51:28; G Jones 3:51:28; A Wray  
3:51:28; C Lessware 3:51:29; D  
3:51:29; S  
3:51:29; J Jones 3:51:29; J  
Alam 3:51:29; D Byrne 3:51:30; P  
3:51:30; S Monte 3:51:30;  
M Ward 3:51:30

3:58:1 G Carter 3:51:31;  
Doeberl 3:51:31; A Baker 3:51:31;  
I Habib 3:51:31; S Crowe 3:51:31;  
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3:51:37; M Rosen 3:51:37; S Lim  
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A Roberts 3:51:38; S Willis  
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Hesselroth 3:51:42; S Browne  
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Cochrane 3:51:44; E Brooks

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Moore 3-51:25 & S Ino 3-51:24;  
Dunkley 3-51:25; A Crowder  
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Alcedary 3-51:27; M Reed 3-51:27;  
McCarthy 3-51:27; H Halpin  
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A Gallaway 3-51:28; G Bernhoi  
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Doebbler 3-51:3; A Baker 3-51:3;  
L Halbo 3-51:3; J Crowe 3-51:3;  
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Cochrane 3-51:44; Brooks

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.







## FOOTBALL

# Liverpool embark on double mission

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

LIVERPOOL begin a programme of two matches in four days tonight that will go a long way to deciding their season. They meet Everton at Goodison Park tonight before Manchester United, the FA Cup semi-final, on Saturday. If they emerge with six points, Liverpool will be poised to win their first championship for seven years.

Ironically, Everton have proved the greater hurdle in recent years, but that should not be the case tonight, even though Everton ended their dismal run last Saturday by beating Tottenham Hotspur. Liverpool, though, know that they cannot afford to let derby passions nullify their obvious superiority.

"It's a must-win game," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said yesterday. "But we have got to go and earn it. We have to make sure we play as

frantic at times, but these are the big ones. I'm hoping that the atmosphere will carry our lads along."

Watson is all too aware of Robbie Fowler's potential to tilt the balance Liverpool's way. With a goal in each of the past three meetings, Fowler is beginning to have the same impact as Ian Rush, the leading scorer in the games between the clubs.

"Robbie was my player of the year," Watson said. "You've got to be on your toes for him all the time. When the ball is at a Liverpool defender's feet, Robbie is on the move. He'll be drifting away from you while you're watching the ball, and that's how he gets in on goal."

If he gets away from Watson, Fowler will also have to beat Southall, who adds to his own record by playing in his fortieth derby tonight. A clean sheet would be a fitting way to mark it.

Wimbledon attempt to salvage something from their season when they play Leeds United at Selhurst Park. They can still qualify for Europe, via a high finish in the Premiership, but will need to collect near-maximum points from their six matches.

"Discounting their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final edge against Leicester City last month, on the away goals rule, Wimbledon's 3-0 FA Cup semi-final defeat by Chelsea on Sunday was their first in 15 outings in knockout competition this season."

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, gleaned little satisfaction from the record, such was his initial disappointment, but he has yet to concede that the club's European target is unattainable. "You never know," he said yesterday. "The season starts again for us, it has to. We still have six games to go and we have to treat it like another cup. I've asked so much of my players this season, but now I've got to ask them for more."

Wimbledon lie in eighth place, seven points behind the sixth position — occupied, at present, by Sheffield Wednesday — that could be enough to gain entry to the UEFA Cup and give them a first taste of continental football. On Saturday, they play Wednesday at Hillsborough. When Wimbledon won the FA Cup in 1988, they were denied their rightful place in the European Cup Winners' Cup by the post-hoc ban on English clubs.

Newcastle United, fifth, and Chelsea, seventh, harbour similar yet more realistic European ambitions. They meet at St James' Park tonight, with Rudd Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, likely to rest several of Sunday's winning side.

# A man marked by issues of morality

Richard Hobson on the doubts that will trouble Pontus Kaarmark at Hillsborough tonight

Pontus Kaarmark did not need to walk far to exchange a word with Juninho at the end of the Coca-Cola Cup final. The pair stood cheek by jowl, just as they had for most of the preceding 120 minutes; the sublimely skilled Brazilian reduced to mortality by the close attention of his Scandinavian marker.

Juninho might have misconstrued Kaarmark's proffered palm on the final whistle as an invitation to begin hand-to-hand combat, so little hospitality had his opponent shown during the game. He would not have been more wrong.

"I apologised to Juninho because he wanted to play football and I had stopped him," Kaarmark said. "I said it was my job, because he is such a good player. He was very nice about it, but I did not offer to exchange shirts because he had probably seen mine enough already."

Kaarmark, capped 27 times by Sweden, is a thoughtful man and questions the validity of the destructive role he was asked to fulfil. In the past, he has done a similar job for Gothenburg in the Champions' League and for his country, most notably when he nullified Romario, another Brazilian, during the group stages of the 1994 World Cup.

"If there is a guy who is an artist, then why take him away? People want to see good skills, but it is something I have to do sometimes because my team does not like to be fooled. Morally, I do not enjoy it. I believe players should be free because this is show-business," Did Gentile and Goicoechea ever go through such turmoil when they kicked Maradona black and blue?



Kaarmark has reservations about a role that is limited to trying to stifle the talents of the likes of Juninho

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, was surprised to be told that Kaarmark had referred to morality in man-marking. It is not a word often used in football.

Slightly ruffled, he intimated that the player would be asked to stick to Juninho again at Hillsborough in the replay tonight "as long as he does not find it too immoral to get on the team coach". More seriously, he added: "If Pontus has marked a player fairly, within the rules of the game, then I do not see the problem."

It is a huge game for Kaarmark, who can expect a

recall to the Sweden squad for the World Cup qualifying game against Scotland on April 30 if he performs even reasonably well. His last appearance for the national side was 19 months ago, shortly before he joined Leicester from IFK Gothenburg for £340,000. Before Wimbledon, little had gone right.

In his second appearance he twisted anterior cruciate ligaments, and he broke down again in a reserve game in January last year. Eleven months passed while he received rehabilitation before his first-team comeback against

Coventry City. A third mishap befell him five weeks later when he broke his arm during an FA Cup tie against Norwich City. He still wears a light, plastic cast for matches.

He still believes that it is essential for Swedish players to move abroad if they wish to better themselves. The domestic league, dominated by a few clubs, hardly encourages personal improvement or generates wealth for its stars.

Even Gothenburg are resigned to selling their best players and, when they lost to Legia Warsaw in the preliminary round of the Champions' League in 1995, it was time for

Kaarmark to go. Gothenburg's failure put Sweden's ambitions back on a realistic level after the euphoria of 1994, when the national team reached the World Cup semi-finals before losing to Brazil. Decline, Kaarmark believes, was inevitable. Yet he insists that his ambitions, while altered, have not dimmed.

"If Leicester win the Coca-Cola Cup, stay in the Premiership, and then Sweden beat Scotland with me in the side, then it would be worth missing more than a year with injury," he said. He can worry about the means to that end afterwards.

## BOXING

## Jacobs can weigh up world title chances

By Srikumar Sen  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

GARY JACOBSS world championship potential in his new division of light-middleweight will be examined tonight at York Hall, Bethnal Green. The former British, European and Commonwealth welterweight champion — who made a big impression last month by knocking out Jimmy Vincent in the first round of his first bout at light-middleweight, after an absence of nine months from the ring — meets Victor Fessetcho.

The 27-year-old Russian journeyman is a good test. He has had 32 contests, of which he has lost five. Jacobs was to have met Adrian Dodson, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) No.1, from Islington, last week, but when the bout fell through because of contractual problems, Fessetcho was called in.

As Fessetcho was stopped in three rounds by Laurent Boudouani, of France, the World Boxing Association champion, a good win tonight would tell us more about the Glaswegian's world title prospects. Jacobs's new promoters, Paris, who want to push him into a world title bout as soon



Jacobs: facing stern test

as possible, believe that if he cannot beat Fessetcho, he might as well not harbour thoughts about boxing at world level.

On the same bill, Paul Lloyd, the Commonwealth bantamweight champion, from Ellesmere Port, makes the second defence of his title against Simphoe Pamana, of South Africa. Pamana is a former super-flyweight champion of his country, but does not appear to have the power to cause Lloyd too much trouble.

Michael Ayers, the British lightweight champion, has been given a revised date of May 31 and the new venue of Sturgate for his WBO title bout with Artur Grigorian, the holder, who is a Russian based in Germany. Grigorian was forced to pull out of the original fight, scheduled for a week on Tuesday in Hamburg, because he injured a shoulder in training.

The purse offer, date for Lennox Lewis's mandatory defence of his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Henry Akinwande, the former WBO champion, has been changed again to April 29 in Mexico City — the seventh different deadline.

## BASEBALL: EXPANDED AUDIENCE OFFERED IN BRITAIN BY GAME'S ATLANTIC CROSSING

## Clubs make pitch for television converts

You have worn the cap, back to front or right way round; now watch, or, better still, play the game. With Channel 5 now showing Major League Baseball on a regular basis for the first time on British terrestrial television, the domestic game is getting ready to capitalise on what its organisers believe will be a tremendous upsurge of interest.

Not that the game does not already have a substantial foothold, which may surprise those who imagine that the only baseball played here goes on in Hyde Park between teams of experts. Membership of the British Baseball Federation (BBF), which was founded in 1990 and employs paid administrators, extends to 100 or so clubs such as the Heston Apaches, the Leeds Luddites and the Hemel Red Sox, whose results and fixtures during the season that started last weekend will be broadcast in Channel 5's coverage of the American game.

Major League Baseball in-

Nick Szczepanik on spin-offs expected by the home runners as Channel 5 approaches first base in its Major League coverage

ternational has a London office and supports the Great Britain national team coach as well as a schools programme named Pitch, Hit, and Run, which will start after Easter. Clive Russell, its representative, is delighted with the Channel 5 plans.

"They have chosen baseball as their main sport," he said. "Having a terrestrial partner elevates the profile of Major League Baseball across the country and, finding one like Channel 5, which is prepared to invest in our other programmes like Pitch, Hit, and Run and Baseball Festival means we can bring all our assets together to the best advantage for everyone."

In addition to live coverage of two games per week during the regular season, Channel 5 is including a baseball coaching segment within *The Mag*, a youth magazine programme, and will inform

viewers how and where they can play the game in their area. Members of the BBF will be manning telephones after each broadcast to let interested parties know where they can sign up.

"We have the network in place to take advantage of it," Kevin Macadam, of the BBF, said. "Our coaching and youth programmes mean that we already have good British players and the product is entertaining."

Although the BBF champions, Menzies Hill Pirates, from a US military base in Yorkshire, are all-American, British standards are high. In the European championships, held in Hull last summer, Great Britain won promotion to European pool A and several young players have attracted attention across the Atlantic.

Gavin Marshall, 18, a pitcher for Kingston Cobras and a

Britain International, is attending San Joaquin Delta College, in California, where he is regarded as their No.1 pitcher. It is hoped that he will be the first player from British baseball to be drafted by a Major League club.

Also on the horizon is a British Super League. "The BBF's aim is to offer eight or ten franchises which existing teams, from our Premier League or not, will be able to bid for," Macadam said. "We will assist them with funding."

Successful bidders will be expected to have existing coaching and youth development programmes. If National Lottery and sponsorship backing can be achieved, the first Super League games will be played in 1998.

"We know they will need at least a year to get ready. Our biggest problem is space: it means encouraging a local

council to give up one of its football pitches. Ice hockey and basketball were able to move straight into existing facilities. They have been able to expand quickly," Macadam added.

Sponsorship negotiations are proceeding with at least three blue-chip companies that, Macadam hopes, will see an opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a boom sport. "Baseball is the last of the big US sports to make a major play for the UK audience and it's the most family-oriented," he said.

"I'm not deluded enough to think baseball will take over from cricket," Macadam said, "but there is a niche in the market for eight or ten clubs with Minor League standard facilities. We aim to recreate the Minor League experience: a thousand spectators, with commentary. We know people will get hooked on it. We hope that Channel 5 will create the sort of interest that started in American football when Channel 4 began covering it."

## IN BRIEF

### McRae feels flat after puncture

COLIN McRAE, the overnight leader, slipped back to fourth place at the end of the second day of the Catalonia Rally. After maintaining his lead for three stages yesterday, the British driver had to stop to change a wheel after a puncture on special stage 11. McRae's Subaru teammate, Piero Liati, of Italy, shares first place with Tommi Makinen, the world champion from Finland, in a Mitsubishi. McRae is 3min 32sec behind.

Olympic Games: The British Olympic Association has named Simon Clegg as its new general secretary. Clegg, 38, who had been assistant general secretary since 1989, will also take charge of the Great Britain team at the winter Olympics in Japan next year.

Hockey: Camnock lost an appeal yesterday over a technical objection in their extra-time defeat by Teddington in the HA Cup quarter-final on Sunday. The semi-finals will now go ahead on April 27 as scheduled.

Curving: Scotland's men moved into fourth place in the round-robin rankings at the world championships in Bern yesterday, after beating Finland 9-1.

## GOLF

## Even more companies rise to the Challenge

By Mel Webb

AS THE cold of winter gives way to early spring, the thoughts of company executives are turning to their promotional and marketing plans for the summer. The thoughts of more than 300 of them have already turned, actually, in that they have registered their company golf days with *The Times/Mess-Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge*.



The amateur golf competition that makes players feel like professionals is in its fifth year, and yet again the number of entries at this stage of the season has risen by 20 per cent.

Last year, 1,000 businesses entered the Challenge, and such is its power in the corporate market that at least 1,200 entries can be expected in 1997. It is impressive by any standards, but when set against its already hugely

successful background it is a remarkable fact that, year on year, it continues to grow at such a rate. As ever, word of mouth has been its biggest recruiting aid — once played in, the Challenge has a habit of creating a host of unpaid but willing salesmen.

It is not always valid to express things in terms of mere cash, but it is beyond question that the Challenge offers unbeatable value. When the competition was launched in 1993, entry cost £150. It remains the same today.

For that registration fee, companies receive personalised trophies, computer software to help with the smooth running of the day, a three-month subscription to *World Golf*, copies of *The Times* at the golf day, appearance in weekly fixtures and results columns in the newspaper, the chance to move forward into one of 14 regional finals and, finally, a place in the national final at the Hyatt La Manga Resort in November.

Players in the regional finals will play on some of the finest golf courses in the British Isles, venues such as the K Club, Dalnalyon, St Pierre and the Forest of Arden. And, if all that does not represent a bargain, then nothing does.

## FOR THE RECORD

## BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 10 Oakland 1. Scottie 6 Cleveland 1. Melvin 7. Detroit 10 Baltimore 4 Minnesota 2. Anaheim 10 Chicago 11 Toronto 10. Toronto 2. Texas 3 Chicago White Sox 1. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 4 St Louis 2. St Louis 10 Colorado 10 Montreal 4. Atlanta 10 Cincinnati 5. San Francisco 3 New York Mets 2.

## BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 34 Cleveland 82. Minnesota 95 Miami 87. Orlando 100 Detroit 91. Washington 131 Philadelphia 110 Chicago 117 Toronto 100. Phoenix 59 Dallas 92. Indiana 110 New York 107. Golden State 103. New Jersey 92. Sacramento 120 San Antonio 106.

## CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Georgetown, Guyana (day day of Test), India 341 and 277-4 vs Sri Lanka 102. S. C. Ganguly 99. Guyana 200 and 227 (41 v Myanmar 56. 2. Hani 51, S. Jha 4-74. D. Ghorshi 3-25). Sri Lanka won by 31 runs.

## FOOTBALL

Monday's late results: NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Stockport 1 Walsley 0. Sweney 3 Barnborough 1.

Leading positions: P W D L F A Pts. Barnborough 41 21 10 10 38 73. Stockport 40 20 12 8 53 36. 72.

Sweney 41 19 14 8 55 38 71. Luton 41 18 12 10 67 44 69. Walsley 41 17 13 11 43 52 61. Walsley 42 16 13 14 53 47 64.

Sweney 42 18 15 55 63 67. Luton 41 17 10 14 59 47 61. Barnborough 41 17 10 14 59 47 61. Luton 41 17 10 14 59 47 61.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Northern: Walsley 1 Walsley 0. Sweney 3 Barnborough 1. SWENY 3 BARNBOROUGH 1. SWENY 3 BARNBOROUGH 1.

## TENNIS

BARCELONA: Men's tournament: First round: M. G. (S) vs S. B. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 2nd round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 3rd round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 4th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 5th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 6th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 7th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 8th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 9th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 10th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 11th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 12th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 13th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 14th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 15th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 16th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 17th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 18th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 19th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 20th round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 21st round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. (S) 6-4, 6-3. 22nd round: J. L. (S) vs J. L. 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BOXING  
Jacobs can  
weigh up  
world title  
chances

## RUGBY UNION

# England can test depth of talent on Argentina tour

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the England team management announces the party of 30 this morning that will make a six-match tour of Argentina next month, it will not be thinking only of South America but Australia, too. England's summer programme incorporates a one-match visit to Sydney and those who win caps against the Argentinians could also do so against Australia.

Although England's representatives on the British Isles tour to South Africa will be available by July 12, when the Sydney international is scheduled, they will have completed a gruelling eight weeks. Some will be carrying injuries, others crying out for rest, and though the Rugby Football Union has booked seats from Johannesburg to Sydney for nine players, only a handful are likely to be required.

That is why Jack Rowell, the England coach, attaches such significance to the England tour. It is an unparalleled opportunity to give his back-up players a taste of the real thing. Results from the A-internationals have been encouraging and the ambitions

of such players as Alex King, the Wasps stand-off half, Tony Diprose, the Saracens No 8, and Jos Baxendell, the Sale centre, can be rewarded.

The Lions, in any case, have left a stream of talent behind. Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, may believe that Mike Carr and Adebayo Adebayo will be required in South Africa at some stage, but, for the present, England have use of them and can be sure of fielding a back division against Argentina most of whom have already been

## Problems piling up for Swansea

Swansea's build-up to the Swalee Cup final later this month has suffered another blow with two more players reporting unfit. Simon Davies pulled a hamstring late in the semi-final against Ebbw Vale and Matthew Black, the full back, has a dead leg.

Swansea are already without four Wales internationals — Colin Charvis, Luc Evans, Arwel Thomas and Tony Clement.

## Leicester forced to bank on reserves

LEICESTER, the wheels having come off their Courage Clubs Championship challenge last week, are placing their immediate future in the hands of some inexperienced youngsters against London Irish at Sunbury tonight (David Hands writes). They have no choice: of the ten senior players missing, nine are injured and the tenth, Richard Cockerill, gets a deserved rest.

The casualty list includes Martin Johnson, the British Isles captain, and Will Greenwood, both of whom have ankle injuries. "This is a game we would really like to have had everyone play in because we would expect to win it, but we can't," Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, said with an air of resignation.

On the plus side, however, he can field some hungry young players while resting

those who looked so weary as they crashed to a record league defeat by 47-9 to Bath at the weekend. The names Mark Jasniewski and Nnamdi Ezulike may not mean much to an audience outside Leicester but the centre and wing will welcome an unexpected opportunity, as will Lewis Moody, the young flanker who scored two tries for England in the colts international with Wales on Saturday.

It is important for the Irish that they should take advantage of their weakened visitors. They have no chance of avoiding the play-offs but, with games in hand on West Hartlepool, they can scrape clear of the two automatic relegation places though they may be without their Ireland stand-off half, David Humphreys, who also has a damaged ankle.

capped, with the possible exception of full back. There, Jim Mallinder, the deserving Sale captain, may make a belated claim. In the centre, Nick Greenstock, of Wasps, could joust with the strong-running Baxendell.

It is the forwards, though, who will face the most severe test of ability and temperament. Argentina, who drew the last series between the countries in 1990 and were robbed at Twickenham last December, when Jason Leonard's late try gave England a 20-18 win, will provide a volatile atmosphere, particularly in the two country matches, in Córdoba and against Cuyo Province in Mendoza.

Discipline will therefore be a key element, which players such as Garath Archer should bear in mind. Archer, the Newcastle lock, has a chance to re-establish himself as an international this summer, as has John Mallett, the Bath prop, who collected his solitary cap during the 1995 World Cup but has now settled effectively in his club's refurbished pack.

There is a healthy quantity of tight forwards from which to choose, but the back-row combination will be instructive. From the five nations' championship, Chris Sheasby and Ben Clarke can join forces with uncapped players such as Rory Jenkins, of Harlequins, and Martin Corry, of Bristol, though the latter has been struggling with a groin strain.

The summer will also prove illuminating in terms of leadership. Phil de Glanville, who is contemplating stepping down from the captaincy of Bath after two years, has been designated a long-term England captain, but Rowell will keep an eye on Martin Johnson's development as captain of the Lions. De Glanville is due to discuss the situation with his club, but is inclined to focus on his national role.

The management will also bear in mind the requirements of the England Under-21 tour party to Australia. They have five matches between June 28 and July 12, and although the Argentina tour will be over by June 7, even the most enthusiastic youngsters need a break from rugby at some stage.



Cooke keeps his eyes on the ball as he prepares to serve against Brown, of Australia

## Cooke in impressive form for dominant England

By RICHARD EATON

ALAN COOKE likes the Commonwealth table tennis championships. The former England No 1 from Derbyshire, who has won gold and silver individual medals in this tournament, scored his fourth success in four encounters, as England completed their fifth victory to move closer to the men's team final at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow yesterday.

Cooke, 31, does not apparently consider himself as a frontrunner for the singles title this time, although his form over the first two days

suggests that he could surprise a few people. Having beaten the China-born Malaysian, Liu Jun Hui, late on Monday night, Cooke followed it with rapid straight games wins over Trevor Brown, of Australia, and Sen Yew Fai, of Singapore, attacking with plenty of pace rather than relying on controlled top spin.

England beat both Australia and Singapore 5-0, leaving them within one victory of tomorrow's final.

Matthew Syed, likely to be top seed for the men's singles, has been playing within himself, and although Alex Perry suffered England's only loss in the first five matches, against Liu Jun Hui, the young left-hander appears to be the squad's most improving player.

His deceptive serving and increased weight of shot may well prove good enough to bring him success against stronger opponents at the world championships, in Manchester next week. England's women completed

ed stage one by finishing top of their group, thanks to a 4-0 success over South Africa, their third win. They followed with a 4-0 second stage victory over India, although Andrea Holt had to come from 17-18 down in the final game, and was given a warning for kicking the ball away before beating Mylajore Mythili.

If the women beat Australia this morning to complete their fifth success, they will be sure of qualifying for the final.

In their win 4-2 over Malaysia, Lisa Lomas and the English national champion, Nicola Deaton, were both beaten by Liu Jing-hong, whose bat was the subject of a protest.

Lomas argued that her opponent's bat had too little sponge on it and that the rubber covering hung over the sides. "It was clearly illegal," Lomas said, but the tournament referee, Bob Ebdon, ruled that the Malaysian could continue.

Results, page 52

## Tiger prompts predictions of total eclipse

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

One of the oldest pieces of sporting mythology that, incidentally, is perfectly true, is the story of the racehorse-owning Colonel Dennis O'Kelly's pre-race prediction: "It will be Eclipse first, the rest nowhere." And so it proved. The horse won just about every race in the 18th century, everybody bar Eclipse fighting for second place, there being no other prize available to the common run of mortal.

It was the same again at the Masters on Sunday night, when Tiger Woods eclipsed the greatest golfers in the world. He was the youngest winner, by the greatest margin, with the best score. The rest of the field were taking part in another event, squabbling among themselves for the right to be second-best.

Already people are talking about the possibility, some even predicting, that Woods will add to his green jacket the Holy Grail: the grand slam of all four majors. Golf is a volatile and unpredictable sport, and not even the greatest of players has achieved supremacy of the sort in which the champion wins every event as of right.

In golf, a champion is always under threat, always liable to fall foul of the game's caprices. But the astounding golfing establishment is now staggering about making all kinds of wild predictions that, for the foreseeable future, it really will be Tiger Woods first, the rest nowhere.

This phenomenon, the total domination of an event or a sport by a single person, is something that crops up now and again. In Atlanta, Roger Black, the British runner, spoke of the privilege of finishing second to the extraordinary Michael Johnson in the 400 metres. "People who say they are going to beat Michael Johnson are idiots," he said. "To be second to him is a great achievement."

The Eclipse Phenomenon is a combination of exceptional ability, and the power to establish complete psychological domination to make year opponents follow-conspirators in the plot that brings about your own greatness, to make them fellow-believers in the cult of your own success.

Ayrton Senna had that ability, which is one of the reasons his death remains a shocking event in the memory. There was a period when the fastest driver in the world was driving the fastest car in the world, the McLaren. How much did Senna win by? Who was second? There was no other question worth asking.

Senna believed in his own greatness and compelled others to believe it. Rebuked for a driving discourtesy, one born of arrogance, he responded with genuine bafflement: "But I am Senna."

In men's tennis, Bjorn Borg had a five-year hegemony at Wimbledon. He set up a tradition that nobody was

able to beat him in SW19. Nobody else expected to win, not even Jimmy Connors, who fought and twice won the right to be second.

There seem to be two sports more prone than the rest to the Eclipse Phenomenon, one of which is snooker. Steve Davis did it in the 1980s, with six world championships; Stephen Hendry is doing it now, with six, the past five in successive years.

Snooker is a game in which the opportunities for establishing mental advantage are legion. All this is made clear by the touching history of Jimmy White, who, in terms of mere shot-making, is probably the most talented player that ever drew breath. And, doomed, in the final analysis, to finish second to Davis or Hendry, again and again.

The other game is women's tennis. In this sport, the Tiger Woods Effect, the Eclipse Phenomenon, is not an extraordinary event: it is the essential rhythm of the sport. It can be marked in eras, one queen following another: Navratilova, Graf, Seles.

It seemed that nothing could break Monica Seles, but a madman with a knife did the job, and Steffi Graf resumed domination of her sport. Now, as she ages, the sport moves into an interregnum. But it is fairly certain that one of the pretenders, most probably Martina Hingis, will take on the Eclipse role.

It is always interesting to speculate on sex and gender, and always dangerous, too; it is possible to generalise about a weaker service, a weaker will or should the talk be of a stronger game, a stronger determination in the championships?

However, there is one certain thing about every champion, every exceptional person who ever dominated a sport, and who compelled the obedience, the serial defeat, of everyone else in the game — ultimate defeat, ultimate failure. Sport occasionally lends humans the illusion of immortality, but shockingly soon, the illusion is exposed for what it is. Every champion, no matter how great, is in the end a loser.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There was some high-class play on this hand from the 1997 Macallan International Pairs.

Dealer West	East-West game	IMPs
♠ J 3 ♥ 10 3 ♦ K Q J 10 9 8 ♣ K J 10	♠ 10 7 ♥ A 9 5 2 ♦ A 7 ♣ 7 8 5 2	
♠ K Q 9 8 4 ♥ Q 6 ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ 8	♠ A 5 2 ♥ K J 8 7 4 ♦ 4 ♣ A 9 4 3	

W	N	E	S
Pass	1D	Pass	1H
1S	2D	2S	Double
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Contract: Three No-trumps by South. Lead: king of spades. I assume South's double of East's Two Spades was a general forward-going move. When all North could do was bid Three Diamonds, there was a good case for South to pass.

West (Geir Helgemo, the world individual champion) led the king of spades, which held, and continued with the queen (East unblocking the ten), which also held. Now West could see that, as he had no entry, there was no point in plodding on with spades. He had to hope his partner had two aces, so it was a question of making best use of one of his queens.

If East had the ace of clubs, declarer was bound to guess correctly if West switched to that suit — why would West switch instead of continuing

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

There was some high-class play on this hand from the 1997 Macallan International Pairs.

Dealer West	East-West game	IMPs
♠ J 3 ♥ 10 3 ♦ K Q J 10 9 8 ♣ K J 10	♠ 10 7 ♥ A 9 5 2 ♦ A 7 ♣ 7 8 5 2	
♠ K Q 9 8 4 ♥ Q 6 ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ 8	♠ A 5 2 ♥ K J 8 7 4 ♦ 4 ♣ A 9 4 3	

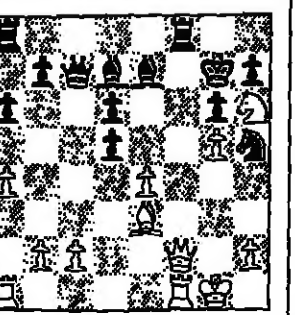
W	N	E	S
Pass	1D	Pass	1H
1S	2D	2S	Double
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Contract: Three No-trumps by South. Lead: king of spades. I assume South's double of East's Two Spades was a general forward-going move. When all North could do was bid Three Diamonds, there was a good case for South to pass.

West (Geir Helgemo, the world individual champion) led the king of spades, which held, and continued with the queen (East unblocking the ten), which also held. Now West could see that, as he had no entry, there was no point in plodding on with spades. He had to hope his partner had two aces, so it was a question of making best use of one of his queens.

If East had the ace of clubs, declarer was bound to guess correctly if West switched to that suit — why would West switch instead of continuing

White to play. This position is from the game Geller — Averkin, USSR 1979. In this position, 1 Bd4+, forcing Black to interpose a piece on f6, would not be a bad move. However, Geller found something stronger. Can you see what he played?



## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

QUOTIDIAN  
a. A Roman magistrate  
b. Everyday  
c. A newspaper

BUCENTAUR  
a. A man-ox  
b. The two-hundredth  
c. A barge

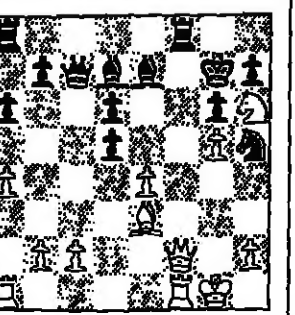
DEBLATERATE  
a. Left-right diagonal  
b. To erase  
c. To babble  
ROINOUS  
a. Dilapidated  
b. In two minds  
c. Contemptible

Answers on page 54

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Geller — Averkin, USSR 1979. In this position, 1 Bd4+, forcing Black to interpose a piece on f6, would not be a bad move. However, Geller found something stronger. Can you see what he played?



Solution on page 54

## FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated  
Coca-Cola Cup  
Final replay  
Leicester v Middlesbrough  
(at Hillsborough, 7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

First division  
Manchester City v Gillingham (7.45)  
Second division  
Gillingham v Stockport (7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

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Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

## RUGBY UNION

Coca-Cola Cup  
Final replay  
Leicester v Middlesbrough  
(at Hillsborough, 7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
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Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

## RUGBY LEAGUE

Coca-Cola Cup  
Final replay  
Leicester v Middlesbrough  
(at Hillsborough, 7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
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Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

## CRICKET

Coca-Cola Cup  
Final replay  
Leicester v Middlesbrough  
(at Hillsborough, 7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

First division  
Manchester City v Gillingham (7.45)  
Second division  
Gillingham v Stockport (7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

FA Cup  
Leicester v Liverpool (7.45)  
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

FA Cup  
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Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

FA Cup  
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FA Cup  
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Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)  
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

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IT'S HOT NEW TEAM: URBAN FISHING: PAUL MASON



CRICKET: DURHAM MAKE RECORD-BREAKING START UNDER THEIR NEW CAPTAIN

## Opening assault stuns Oxford

BY JACK BAILEY

THE PARKS (first day of three; Durham won toss): Oxford University, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 317 runs behind Durham

DAVID BOON, of Tasmania and Australia, flew in a couple of days ago, took over the captaincy of Durham and thus far has done nothing wrong. He confessed to having hardly had the time to get to know his players, and yesterday he declared before he had the chance to bat.

Yet, by winning the toss, he gave his team first use of ideal conditions — vividly seized upon by Jon Lewis and Paul Collingwood in an opening partnership of 290 — then saw his bowlers, led by Melvyn Betts, reduce Oxford to 36 for six, after they had lost their first three wickets for one run.

Boon is too old a hand to be influenced overmuch by yesterday's events. Oxford will struggle against most sides this summer. He will, however, have been impressed by Lewis's dedication and by the determined attitude of his team, even against a bunch of unseasoned undergraduates.

If Lewis could move counties more often, he probably would. Centuries on debut are his speciality. Yesterday, he improved on the hundred he made for Essex in his first first-class match by scoring an unbeaten double-century from only 201 balls against an Oxford attack, which although even more inexperienced than usual, stuck to its task pretty well.

By the time he was finished, Lewis had also achieved the highest individual score for Durham in first-class cricket (a distinction previously held by John Morris with 204 against Warwickshire in the match in which Larra made his 50).

What with Lewis's contribution and a maiden century



Lewis, in commanding form in his first match for Durham, drives one of his 31 fours in an unbeaten 210

from Collingwood, Boon had more than enough runs on the board to give Oxford an hour and a quarter at the crease. The outcome was dire. Betts, from the pavilion end, and Brown proved too much for hesitant batting on a pitch made for runs.

Now Oxford's inexperience really showed. Their only survivor from last year's university match is their captain, Mark Wagh, and he is injured. While Nigel Laughton, a former bodyguard to the

Queen and stalwart of the Black Watch, had been able to marshal his forces in the field, there was nothing he could do as the batting crumbled.

He resisted for half an hour, but was out shortly before the end. Betts had by then taken four wickets for 15 runs. He had been admirably supported by Speight, back behind the stumps, and safe catching in the close positions. Now it was a different game, played at an altogether faster pace, and Oxford had no answer.

## SCOREBOARD FROM THE PARKS

DURHAM First Innings		Oxford University First Innings	
J J Lewis not out	210	J J Lewis not out	210
P Collingwood & P Collingwood	290	P Collingwood & P Collingwood	290
E Morris low b Patel	8	E Morris low b Patel	8
N J Speight not out	17	N J Speight not out	17
Extras (lb 1, nb 16)	17	Extras (lb 1, nb 16)	17
Total (2 wickets down)	326	Total (2 wickets down)	326
D C Boon, HM P Speight, M M Betts, J Belling, D M Cox, N Kilian and S J E Brown did not bat		D C Boon, HM P Speight, M M Betts, J Belling, D M Cox, N Kilian and S J E Brown did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-250, 2-222, 3-222, 4-222, 5-222, 6-222, 7-222, 8-222, 9-222, 10-222, 11-222, 12-222, 13-222, 14-222, 15-222, 16-222, 17-222, 18-222, 19-222, 20-222, 21-222, 22-222, 23-222, 24-222, 25-222, 26-222, 27-222, 28-222, 29-222, 30-222, 31-222, 32-222, 33-222, 34-222, 35-222, 36-222, 37-222, 38-222, 39-222, 40-222, 41-222, 42-222, 43-222, 44-222, 45-222, 46-222, 47-222, 48-222, 49-222, 50-222, 51-222, 52-222, 53-222, 54-222, 55-222, 56-222, 57-222, 58-222, 59-222, 60-222, 61-222, 62-222, 63-222, 64-222, 65-222, 66-222, 67-222, 68-222, 69-222, 70-222, 71-222, 72-222, 73-222, 74-222, 75-222, 76-222, 77-222, 78-222, 79-222, 80-222, 81-222, 82-222, 83-222, 84-222, 85-222, 86-222, 87-222, 88-222, 89-222, 90-222, 91-222, 92-222, 93-222, 94-222, 95-222, 96-222, 97-222, 98-222, 99-222, 100-222, 101-222, 102-222, 103-222, 104-222, 105-222, 106-222, 107-222, 108-222, 109-222, 110-222, 111-222, 112-222, 113-222, 114-222, 115-222, 116-222, 117-222, 118-222, 119-222, 120-222, 121-222, 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1309-222, 1310-222, 1311-2			



doin'") were last seen heading to the ferry port. What larks, eh?


I think it was Carol who said that the way to a man's heart was his stomach and Blossom, perhaps, who thought that was a bit high. Of second thoughts, it may be rather to sense the other way around. But whichever it was, they were proved absolutely right by the second instalment of *Murder One* (BBC). The new man at Hoffman Associates, James Wyler (Anthony LaPaglia) was finding it impossible to get through a meal with anybody, but the first merry widow to wiggle her well upholstered wallet... and hey, look she's staying for breakfast.

In his defence it must be said that widows do not come much merrier than Caroline Van Allen (Romy Watford). But she's got to live with the prospect of falling out with her previous girlfriend, the equally beautiful Laura (Jessica Tuck). First. Over lunch, naturally.

**H**aving persuaded his subjects to speak out, Pethergill deserves praise for not following the current fashion of subsequently making fools of them in the edit suite. The format was straightforward, with the confessions delivered straight

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News Early (7615794)  
7.30 Hawkzoo (2735142)  
8.00 Adventures of the Bush P  
(2353871)  
8.30 Wildeword: State of the Union S  
Cole reviews the Reagan years (235  
9.00 Espresso (5425933)  
10.00 Exclusive (7) (8680142)  
10.30 Fame and Fortune: Ivana Trum  
(2458068)  
11.00 Lezza (9665790)  
11.50 Double Espresso (7) (45239535)  
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Th  
Ridge's wedding arrives, but w  
ceremony take place? (7) (2436158  
12.30pm Family Affairs (7) (8310974)  
1.00 5 News Update (92260210)  
1.05 Sunset Beach Gregory buys the pi  
of Olive throwing a gun into the o  
Vanessa is accosted by thugs  
(3632784)  
2.00 5's Company (8425086)



Marie Osmond stars (3.30pm)

3.30 Side by Side (1982) with Marie Ca  
Joseph Bottoms and Amy Osmond  
story of Olive and George Car  
parents of the musical Osmond f  
Directed by Russ Mayberry (42404  
5.20 5's Company: Let's Extr (142007  
5.30 100 Per Cent Quiz (1382177)  
6.00 Whittle Quiz (7) (1372790)  
6.30 Family Affairs Chris upsets Angu  
he lets slip Sally's secret plans. C  
receives an ultimatum (7) (1290142  
7.00 Exclusive Gossip (1117326)  
7.30 Waterland: Valley Beneath the  
The rich and varied habitats support  
the river fal in Cornwall (7) (749785  
7.50 Party Election Broadcast: The  
Conservative Party (5548887)  
8.00 The Great Garden Game From  
Mount Stewart Gardens, Co Down  
week's task is to rip out and re  
hedges in three hours (7) (1299574  
8.30 5 News (1105581)  
8.00 A Shining in Fulham County (7)  
with Ken Olin, Jill Elkenberry and  
Perلمان. Drama centring on the reli  
drama facing an Arish family after  
eight-month-old baby is killed by  
local teenagers. Directed by Larry E  
(32900993)  
10.50 Exclusive Extra (5017210)

with guests Janet Street-Porter  
Richard Vranich (2587448)

12.10am Live and Dangerous Sports  
Including action from the US  
league (34675479)  
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Monica  
trouble (6439949)  
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5300630)

**THE HISTORY CHANNEL**

1) 9.00 Hammer  
2) 10.00 Tour of  
Mc Basil's Case

30 New Twilight

**MEDY**  
Roseanne (5719)  
on Monty Python

Armstrong and  
Husband (35581)  
to Hart (43288) 1.30 FILM: Pn Be  
for Christmas (24272) 3.30 My Two

**UK LIVING**

(7431719) 11.00 Young and the R  
(5697571) 11.50 Brookside (29

Tempert	(8542784)	1.40	Agony	Exp
(8851535)	2.30	Agony	Exp	
(9495061)	3.00	Live at Three	(2500)	

6.00 | Dream of Jeannie (3481968)  
Reedy, Steady, Cook (2870413)

0.30 Doing It Up  
house (5853887)  
4516 10 am V  
(2597803) 8.05 Polinda (5384983)  
FILM: Connections (8378784)  
12.00 Spicy Sex Files (2883535)

7.00am Jaagran 7.30 Morning 8.0  
Ceiling 8.30 Man 9.00 Eber Junbe

Country Cooking  
Old House  
11:30 Dance 12:00 Dinner 12:30pm  
has 1.00 FILM 4.00 ZEE Zone 4.10  
Demand 5.10 All Lala 6.00 Campu

9.05 Pathar 10.00 Hi Thi Hi Hai  
Purush Kohetra 11.30 Mono Ya Na I

**MTV**  
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## SIMON BARNES 53

Tiger Woods and the phenomenon of total eclipse

## SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1997

## TABLE TENNIS 53

Dominant Cooke keeps England on path to final



Middlesbrough face test of character

# Replay drives Robson to distraction

BY DAVID MADDOCK

HAVING suffered the anguish of conceding a goal late in extra time on successive Sundays, Middlesbrough must raise themselves for a third time tonight as they seek to offset a relegation battle with the silverware that the club has craved for 121 years.

Middlesbrough enjoyed their day out at Wembley, although their thoughts are now seemingly dominated by a chaotic end-of-season programme in which much larger issues are at stake than the Coca-Cola Cup final replay against Leicester City.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, did not exactly say as much yesterday, but he dwelt for a considerably longer period on the perceived injustice of not extending the season than he did on his side's prospects at Hillsborough. The hectic schedule that his side must endure, he said, means that the FA Carling Premiership game against Sunderland on Saturday assumes far more significance, given its influence over the relegation issue, than even the prospect of lifting Middlesbrough's first significant trophy.

"I have told the players that, even if we beat Leicester, there will be no celebrations," Robson said. "We cannot have a drink in the dressing-room afterwards because the game against Sunderland is so important. Clearly, our main priority is to stay in the Premiership, and we have to be ready for that match. Whichever side wins [on Saturday] will help themselves immensely at the bottom."

Robson is not amused by the Premier League's announcement that the season will not be extended to accommodate two semi-final replays, which have increased the number of games that Middlesbrough will be forced to play over the

PROBABLE LINE-UPS	
MIDDLESBROUGH	LEICESTER CITY
M Schwarzer (or B Roberts)	K Kellie, S Grayson,
N Cox, M Pearson, G Fosta,	S Walley, S Prior,
V Kinder (or C Fleming),	M Whitlow, G Parker,
R Mustoe, Emerson,	N Landon, P Kaamark,
C Higgins, Juninho	M Izzet, S Charlidge,
F Ravenhill, M Beck	E Headley

Kick-off 7.45pm (live on Sky Sports 3)

next three weeks. They may have to play as many as ten, including a daunting last week of four matches.

It is a sobering prospect that such an important issue as relegation from the Premiership, and the loss of attendant riches, can be decided by games against Aston Villa, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers and Leeds United within nine days. No wonder that Robson was less than occupied with the Coca-Cola Cup.

"The Premiership have made it clear they are unwilling to budge," he said. "It is ridiculous. How are we ex-

strong and full of energy," Robson said.

Leicester have no such diversions and will be hoping to capitalise on any exhaustion in the opposition camp. They are virtually clear of all relegation worries and victory tonight would crown a season that has already exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

Leicester were favourites to go down but instead have reached one final and were only denied a possible place in the FA Cup quarter-finals by a controversial refereeing decision. They will also hope for at least mid-table respectability in the Premiership. This is English football, though, and therefore even such a success story must still have its disruptions. It comes in the form of Pontus Kaamark, the man-marker whose enthusiasm in suppressing Juninho at Wembley did so much towards earning his side a replay.

For all his ability in the role, Kaamark professed this week his distaste at performing such a task. That did not go down well with Martin O'Neill, the passionate and articulate Leicester manager, who responded to such insubordination with some acid. "Oh really," he replied when hearing of Kaamark's objections. "Well, maybe he won't have to do that job, because he might not be playing."

Leicester will probably be unchanged from the first match. Middlesbrough will wait on the fitness of Mark Schwarzer, their Australian goalkeeper, and Robson must choose between Kinder, who was dismissed on Sunday, and Fleming. A repeat of the closeness of the initial contest at Wembley is likely, but Leicester may prevail this time.

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Perfect weather greeted the start of the new season in the Parks, where the Durham opening batsmen were full of the joys of spring

## Test captains complaining of overwork

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, and his Pakistan counterpart, Wasim Akram, joined forces yesterday to call for a reduction in the number of matches on the international calendar.

Akram also proposed a longer break between one-day internationals to allow players adequate rest, rather than scheduling matches in quick succession to please spectators and sponsors.

"We are also human beings," he said shortly after

arriving in Colombo for a two-Test series with Sri Lanka.

Ranatunga said he would support a cutback in the programme when the Test captains get together in July at a meeting arranged by the International Cricket Council.

While members of his squad practised at a local club ground, Akram said that he was doubtful for the first Test, which starts on Saturday. "My bowling arm is not 100 per cent," he said. "The ligaments have been weakened by playing too much cricket."

Akram, the only player with

more than 300 wickets in both Test and one-day internationals, added: "The injury became quite bad in the recent Sharjah Cup tournament. The only cure is rest. I am taking my time to see if it improves, but my chances are quite remote."

Although Sri Lanka beat Pakistan in Sharjah, Akram said that he was confident of winning the Test matches. "I think we have the better five-day side and our fielding is stronger," he said.

Ranatunga admitted that

Test matches were a "different ball game" but added that Sri Lanka, as the holders of the World Cup, were not short of confidence, despite a disastrous Test series in New Zealand last month.

"That is all history now," Ranatunga said. "We are looking forward to doing well in the future. Pakistan have a good bowling line-up, but we have the batsmen to take care of it."

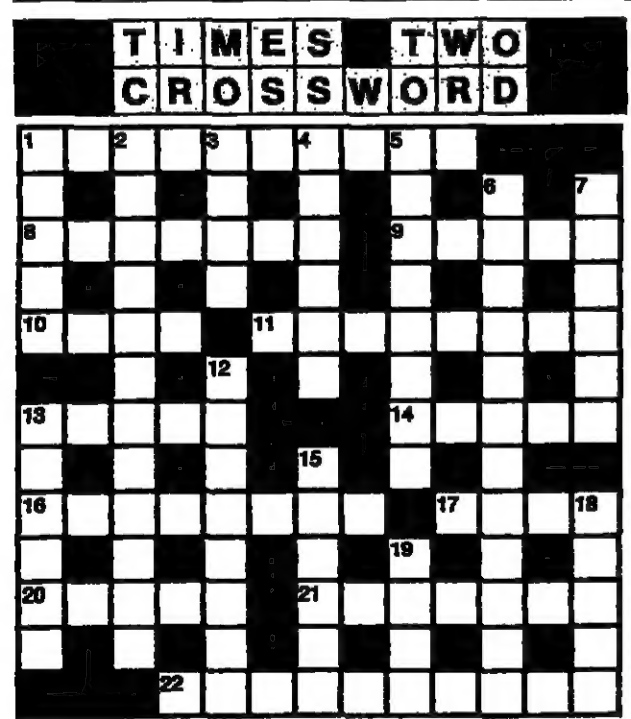
Two of the Pakistan party, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, along with the coach, Mushtaq Mohammad, have

yet to arrive for the tour, which opens today with a two-day game against a Sri Lanka Board XI that will be captained by Marvan Atapattu.

Atapattu, who has replaced Asanka Gurusinha in the Test side, is one of the young Sri Lanka players who has impressed Akram.

"I think they need some young blood," he said. "They need a couple more batsmen like Atapattu, who is a good player. Then they will be all right."

Students struggle, page 54



No 1069

ACROSS  
1 Addendum to letter (10)  
8 Fabulous one-horned beast (7)  
9 Academy Award (5)  
10 Cook in dry heat (4)  
11 Span, resort: bore, mind (anag.) (8)  
13 Arbor (5)  
14 Come in (5)  
16 Stirring, arousing (8)  
17 Muddle; fellow-diners (4)  
20 Surface lustre (5)  
21 Capital of Libya (7)  
22 Long-lived patriarch: eight-bottle bottle (10)

DOWN  
1 Lead weight, vertical (5)  
2 Difficult position, esp. for batsman (6,6)  
3 Fat, lazy person (4)  
4 Smuggler: type of bean (6)  
5 Made available: if (8)  
6 Alone win jackpot (5,3,4)  
7 Simple textbook: detonator (6)  
12 Make-believe (5)  
13 Part of body; boldly confront (6)  
15 Grab quickly (6)  
18 Hiss quickly; fashionable (5)  
19 Prejudice (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1068  
ACROSS: 1 Safety first 8 Ghana 9 Revenge 10 Then 11 Coolidge 12 Depend 14 Weasel 17 Silbelius 19 Flab 22 Whitsun 23 Flail 24 Femme fatale  
DOWN: 1 Sight 2 Frame-up 3 Toad 4 Farrow 5 Revolver 6 Tuned 7 Reveal 12 Uncle Sam 13 Disown 15 Sultan 16 Nuance 18 Brief 20 Bulge 21 Offa

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1064  
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Paved 7 Union 8 Poverty 9 Seville 11 Second 13 Give it a go 15 Crow's feet 19 Rodent 21 Leopard 23 Rappart 24 Bazooka 25 Dolls  
DOWN: 1 Penny 2 Vixen 3 Daring 4 Guy/s 5 Strict 6 Collage 10 Eater 12 Differ 14 Arsenal 16 Wet rot 17 Torpid 18 Recoil 20 Titus 22 Drag

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is M Griffiths, Quinton, Birmingham.  
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is R Lambert, Sidcup, Kent.  
All flights subject to availability.

## Gould has president's backing

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BOBBY GOULD'S position as the manager of Wales appears to be safe after he was given a vote of confidence by Brian Fear, the president of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), yesterday. Gould could even be offered an extension to his contract, which expires in December, that would take him up to the European championship finals in the year 2000.

Fear was responding to recent criticism of Gould, who was accused by Nathan Blake, the Wales and Bolton Wanderers striker, of making racist remarks to him. Though Gould vigorously denied the claims, many FAW councillors were privately angered that the association should have become embroiled in a dispute of such a delicate and controversial nature.

Also, with Wales's group seven World Cup qualifying

campaign having ended in apparent failure, it was seen as a possible opportunity to replace Gould, who took over in August 1995, and seek a successor to revive the Principality's fortunes. However, Fear has taken a more sympathetic view.

"Bobby has my backing and, I hope, [that of] the rest of the management committee,"



Gould: under pressure

he said yesterday. "I don't think his job is on the line, it's not in danger as far as I am concerned. Two years is not long enough to do the job and I think he should have at least another contract through to the European finals."

Gould has subsequently apologised to Blake for any misinterpretation of remarks that he made during the build-up to the game against Belgium in Cardiff last month. When Gould was handing out the coloured bibs for training, he told Blake that he was "in the blacks".

Blake complained to Neville Southall, the Everton goalkeeper and part-time Wales coach, and although Gould swiftly tried to resolve the issue, Blake declined the olive branch. It was only after the intervention of the Professional Footballers' Association that Blake eventually "acknowledged" Gould's apology.

## Uganda's late arrivals test the water

It was going swimmingly at the accreditation centre for the world short-course championships here in Gothenburg until three bedraggled and hungry young Ugandans walked through the door and declared themselves ready for competition.

Led by Suleiman Benwa, health instructor, coach, manager, baggage-handler, chaplain and the keeper of a small purse of Ugandan currency, this small squad of aquatic interlopers was informed that sending official entry forms to compete in world championships was the accepted protocol.

Benwa, 25, explained that everything had been such a rush since their federation had given leave for them to represent Uganda, and British Airways had offered free flights to London, that there had been little time left to plan.

While other teams have physiotherapists, doctors, sports scientists, press

Craig Lord meets a small squad with bedraggled swimming aspirations

officers and nutritionists on board, Benwa explained: "I even had to bring my work clothes with me in a laundry bag because there was no time to go home after work on Saturday."

The journey had begun badly, he said, with the women's team, or rather Joy N'Fashingabo, getting lost at Entebbe airport and failing to make the plane. Ismail Walu Simbi, 17, had made it but refused to eat anything throughout the 36-hour journey to Sweden, which involved several hours slumbering on seats at Heathrow.

"He just hasn't eaten a thing," Nicola Wanyana, Benwa's assistant team man-

ager, said. Benwa added: "I think Walu Simbi is going to faint. We cannot change our money and he needs his energy."

Walu Simbi certainly will on Friday, day two of the four-day event, when he attempts to improve his personal best time for the 100 metres breaststroke of 1min 20sec; all 46 other entrants have docked 1min 10sec or faster.

After tucking into burgers, chips and Coke, courtesy of The Times, the elite of Ugandan swimming faced a wait at the pool. They could not afford hotel accommodation so Benwa's aunt, who lives in Gothenburg, had offered to put them up.

"She doesn't come home from work until five o'clock so we'll wait here - it's too cold to go out there anyway," Benwa, peering out at a few flakes of snow that had started to fall, said. Meanwhile, the Ugandans were waiting for news of N'Fashingabo's fate - and whether their team would double overnight.

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